

CALVIN ON THE PAPACY



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Rev. Prof. Dr. John Calvin (1509-64) was the greatest of all Protestant Reformers. He lived and testified and died -- during the time of cruel papal tyranny over the Church of Christ.

There was no Papacy in the Early Church. As predicted in Holy Scripture, it would arise only later -- and to test and strengthen True Christians. Daniel chapters 7 to 12; Second Thessalonians chapter 2; First John chapters 2 to 4; Revelation chapters 11 to 18.

This occurred especially from about A.D. 600 onward. It climaxed around A.D. 1215, when the Romish doctrine of transubstantiation was enunciated officially.

Yet the Papacy was still the most powerful agency in deforming Christ's Church -- also in Calvin's day. Indeed, even today, the Popes and the Papists who support them most carefully need to be distinguished not only from the true Protestant Christians they oppose -- but also from the (often pious) Roman Catholics who are their dupes.

Rev. Prof. Dr. John Calvin on the characteristics of Papists and the Papacy

The genius of Geneva, in his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*,¹ wrote also about the time of the early Christian centuries prior to the papacy of A.D. 600*f*. Explains Calvin: "As in ancient times, there remained among the Jews certain special privileges of a Church -- so in the present day [A.D. 1536*f*] we deny not to **the Papists** those vestiges of a Church which the Lord has allowed to remain among them.... Thus, He had deposited His [Christian Church] Covenant in Gaul, Italy, Germany, Spain and England." Even after the 7th century, "when these countries were oppressed by the tyranny of **Antichrist**, He [God] -- in order that His Covenant might remain inviolable -- first preserved baptism there," even in the mediaeval Roman Catholic Church.

This was "an evidence of the Covenant -- baptism which, consecrated by His lips, retains its power in spite of human depravity. He provided by His Providence that there should be other remains too, to prevent the Church from utterly perishing.... He did not permit **Antichrist** either to subvert His Church from its foundation, or to level it with the ground. Though, to punish the ingratitude of men who had despised His Word, He allowed a fearful shaking and dismembering to take place -- He was pleased that amid the devastation, the edifice should remain, even though half in ruins. Therefore, while we are unwilling simply to concede the name of 'Church' to **the Papists**, we do not deny that there are churches among them....

"Daniel and Paul foretold that **Antichrist** would sit in the temple of God. Daniel [7:7-25 &] 9:27 [&] 12:7-12] and Second Thessalonians 2:4. We regard **the Roman Pontiff** as the leader and the standard-bearer of that wicked and abominable kingdom [of **Antichrist**]. By placing his seat [or throne] in the temple of God, it is intimated that his kingdom would not be such as to destroy the name either of Christ or of His Church.

"Hence, then, it is obvious that we do not at all deny that churches remain under his tyranny; churches, however, which by sacrilegious impiety he has profaned.... I call them 'churches' inasmuch as the Lord there wondrously preserves some remains of His people, though miserably torn..., and inasmuch as some symbols of the Church still remain.... On the other hand, those marks to which we ought especially to have respect in this discussion -- are effaced. I say that the whole body [of Papists], as well as every single assembly, lacks the form of a legitimate Church."

Still, "ecclesiastical government as now existing in **the Papacy**," is "opposed to the institution of Christ." For the Romish Papacy has "so degenerated from the ancient customs and practices of the Church..., that a greater injury cannot be done to Christ than to use His Name in defending this disorderly rule.... We maintain that their kingdom is the tyranny of **Antichrist**."

Calvin further warned: "We may not be imposed upon by the name of ' Church' If the True Church is ' the pillar and ground of the truth' (First Timothy 3:15)-it is certain that there is **no Church**, where lying

and falsehood have usurped the ascendancy. Since this is the state of matters under **the Papacy**, we can understand how much of the 'Church' there survives....

"The place which we ought to assign to all the churches on which the tyranny of **the Romish idol** has seized, will better appear if we compare them with the ancient Israelitish Church.... After they forsook the Law of the Lord and degenerated into idolatry and superstition, they partly lost the privilege.... Who may presume to give the name of 'Church' without reservation, to that assembly by which the Word of God is openly and with impunity trampled under foot -- where His ministry, its chief support, and the very soul of the Church, is destroyed?

"Let **the Papists**...deny...if they can that the state of religion is as much vitiated and corrupted with them, as it was in the kingdom of Israel under Jeroboam! They have a grosser idolatry, and in doctrine are not one whit more pure; rather, perhaps, they are even still more impure! God -- nay even those possessed of a moderate degree of judgment -- will bear me witness. And the thing itself is too manifest to require me to enlarge upon it.... Scarcely can we hold any meeting with **them** [**the Papists**], without polluting ourselves with **their** idolatry. Their principal bond of communion is understandably in the '**Mass**' -- which **we** abominate as **the greatest sacrilege!**"

Rev. Dr. John Calvin on the beginning and rise and development of the Romish Papacy

Argues Dr. Calvin: "In the Council of Carthage, at which Augustine [A.D. 354-430] was present, we do not perceive that the legates of the Roman See but Aurelius the...Bishop presided. Nay, even in Italy itself, a Universal Council (that of Aquileia) was held at which the Roman Bishop was not present -- [and the A.D. 339-97] Ambrose, who was then in high favour with the Emperor, presided." Indeed, the title of 'Sole Pope' or 'Universal Father' was never given to any Bishop of Rome before Gregory the Great -- who promptly repudiated it!

Calvin explains further: "The controversy concerning the title of '**Universal Bishop**' arose at length in the time of Gregory [the Great, Bishop of Rome A.D. 590-604].... But he strongly insists that the appellation is profane; nay, blasphemous; nay, the forerunner of **Antichrist**....

"[Asked Gregory:] 'What else is intimated, but that the days of **Antichrist** are already **near**' (*Lib. IV Ep. 76*).... 'None of my predecessors [as Bishops of Rome] ever desired to use this **profane** term' (*Lib. IV Ep. 80*).... 'To consent to that **impious** term, is nothing else than to lose the faith' (*Lib. IV Ep. 83*)....

"'Everyone that calls himself or desires to be called '**Universal Priest**,'"' insisted Gregory, "is...a forerunner of **Antichrist**' (*Lib. VII Ep. 154*).... 'None ever wished to be called by such a name' (*Lib. IV Ep. 82*).... '**Though I prohibited** you [Bishop Eulogius of Alexandria] -- **you** have taken care to write a word of proud signification by calling me '**Universal Pope**' (*Lib. VII Ep. 30*)!"²

However, soon after Gregory the Great, the various successive bishops of Rome started to demand that they be called '**Pope**' alias '**[Universal] Father**.' Continues Dr. Calvin: "At length [the new Emperor] Phocas...conceded to Boniface III [who was Bishop of Rome from A.D. 607-8] what Gregory by no means demanded -- *viz.* that Rome should be the head of all the churches....

"Zachary the Roman Pontiff [from 741 to 752]...had the jurisdiction of the Roman See established over the churches of France.... The **tyranny** of the Roman Bishop was established, and ever and anon **increased**....

"It is absolutely **certain** that [this was]...new, and of **recent fabrication**.... But doubtless, it was necessary that those **Antichrists** should proceed to such a degree of madness and blindness -- so that their iniquity might be manifest to all men of sound mind who will only open their eyes....

“Let these 'worthy' defenders of the **Roman See** tell me with what face they can defend the title of 'Universal Bishop' -- while they see it so often anathematised by Gregory! If effect is to be given to his testimony, then they -- by making their **Pontiff** 'universal' -- declare him to be **Antichrist**....

“The existing state of the Papacy...is clearly a hundred times more corrupt than in the days of Gregory [590-604] and Bernard [1090-1153] -- though even then, those holy men were so much displeased with it.... In the present day, the World is so inundated with perverse and **impious doctrines**; so full of all kinds of **superstition**; so blinded by error and sunk in **idolatry** -- there is not one of them which has not **emanated** from the **Papacy** or at least been confirmed by it....

“Shall we recognize the 'Apostolic See' -- where we see nothing but horrible apostasy? Shall he [**the Pope**] be '**the Vicar of Christ**' who, by his furious efforts in persecuting the Gospel -- plainly declared himself to be **Antichrist**? Shall he be the successor of Peter, who goes about with fire and sword demolishing everything that Peter built? Shall he be 'the Head of the Church' who after dissevering the Church from Christ her only true head, tears and lacerates her members? **Rome** indeed was **once** the mother of all the churches. But since she began to be **the seat of Antichrist** [by 666 A.D.], she ceased to be what she was.

“To some we seem slanderous and petulant, when we call the **Roman Pontiff Antichrist**. But those who think so -- perceive not that they are bringing a charge of intemperance against Paul, according to whom we speak.... Paul says that Antichrist would sit in the temple of God (Second Thessalonians 2:4).

“In another passage, the Spirit...says that his reign would be with great swelling words of vanity (Daniel 7:25). Hence we infer that his tyranny is more over souls than bodies -- a tyranny set up in opposition to the spiritual Kingdom of Christ.... He [**Antichrist**] abolishes not the name either of 'Christ' or the 'Church' -- but rather uses the name of 'Christ' as a pretext, and lurks under the name of 'Church' as under a mask. But though all the heresies and schisms which have existed from the beginning, belong to the kingdom of **Antichrist** -- yet, when Paul foretells that defection will come, he by the description intimates that that seat of abomination will be erected when a kind of **universal defection** comes upon the **Church**, [even] though many members of the Church scattered up and down should continue in the true unity of the faith....

“This calamity was neither to be introduced by one man, nor to terminate in one man.... Second Thessalonians 2:3; Daniel 7:9. Moreover, when the mark by which he [St. Paul] distinguished **Antichrist** is that he would rob God of His honour and take it to himself -- he gives the leading feature which we ought to follow in searching out **Antichrist**, especially when pride of this description proceeds to the open devastation of the Church. Seeing then it is certain that **the Roman Pontiff** has impudently transferred to himself the most peculiar properties of God and Christ -- there cannot be a doubt that he is the leader and standard-bearer of an **impious and abominable kingdom**.”

This is true especially of the late-mediaeval popes. As Dr. Calvin explains: "The See which they occupy...no more makes them the 'vicars of Christ' than it makes an idol to become God when it is placed in the temple of God (Second Thessalonians 2:4)!"³

It is true that today -- as indeed also at the time of the Protestant Reformation -- at least something of Christianity can still be seen in the Roman Catholic Church. For this reason, some wrongly think that this ecclesiastical body should be recognized by Protestants -- as being just one of many inconsistent denominations of one and the same Christian Faith.

The truth, however, is that the Papacy is **not a version** of Christianity. It is not a version, but a **perversion**. It is not at all fully Christian; but is at best sub-Christian, and at worst anti-Christian.

Dr. John Calvin on adumbrations of the Romish Papacy in the Pentateuch

On Genesis, Dr. Calvin comments:⁴“It appears what kind of religion is that of **the Papacy**. There, instead of the Word of God, the fictions of men alone are the subject of boast.... At this day [*viz.* 1563], **the Papists** proudly exult. There is no reason why we [Protestants] should be disturbed by their empty and

inflated boasts. As to their glorying in their long succession -- it means just as much as if Ishmael were proclaiming himself the first-born"; in spite of Genesis 21:12f!

On Genesis 31:30, *cf.* 30:19, Dr. Calvin comments further:⁵ "We see that Laban calls his 'gods' *teraphim* [alias 'images'] -- not because he thought the Deity was enclosed within them; but because he revered these images in honour of the 'gods.' Or rather, because -- when he was about to pay homage to God [the Triune God '*Elohiym*']-- he turned himself to those images!

"At this day, **the Papists** think they skilfully effect their escape, because they do not attribute to idols the name of gods. But the subterfuge is frivolous, since in reality they are altogether alike. For they pour forth before pictures or statues, whatever honour they acknowledge to be due to the one God."

On Exodus, Calvin comments that Pharaoh spared the daughters of the Israelites, "so that, being enslaved and allotted to the Egyptians, they might produce slaves for their masters.... Here it may be worth while to meditate on a comparison with our own times. [The papal Romish] **Antichrist**, with all his murderous agents, leaves in peace those who by their treacherous silence deny Christ and are prepared to embrace as slaves every kind of impiety."⁶

Indeed, Dr. Calvin also compares the magicians of Pharaoh with "the coming of **Antichrist**...with signs and lying-wonders" -- and adds that "the wickedness of Pharaoh blinded his eyes, so that...he was **deceived** by the juggles of his own magicians.... Many, nowadays, among **the Papists** -- are followers of wicked superstitions.... Second Thessalonians 2:10[f].... Frivolous is that cavil which **the Papists** advance, that the serpent is called the rod of Moses -- as the bread 'transubstantiated' into the body of Christ retains the name of bread.... We may retort...the bread is called the body of Christ although it remains bread, just as the serpent which then appeared, is called the rod!"

On Deuteronomy 12:32, Calvin comments:⁷ "In order to the keeping of the **First Commandment**, a knowledge of God is required -- derived from His Word, and mixed with faith. By forbidding the addition or diminishing of anything, He plainly condemns as illegitimate whatever men invent of their own imagination. Whence it follows that they who in worshipping God are guided by any rule save that which He Himself has prescribed, make to themselves **false gods**.... Now, since all the ceremonies of the **papal worship** are a **mass of superstitions** -- no wonder that all her chief rulers...should be blinded with that stupidity with which God has threatened them!"

On the **Second Commandment**, Calvin comments:⁸ "It is unquestionable that the supreme power of Christ was represented in the person of Aaron. And hence the folly of **the Papists** is refuted, who transfer or rather wrest this example to the state of the Christian Church, so as to...fabricate the 'primacy' of the Roman See.

"But if the true meaning of this figure be sought, it will be more appropriate to reason that whatever Ministers and Pastors of the Church are now appointed, they are placed as it were under the hand of Christ -- in order that they may usurp no dominion, but behave themselves modestly.... Hence we conclude that **the Papacy** is founded only in **wicked sacrilege**. For Christ is unjustly deprived of His Own, if anyone else is feigned to be Aaron's successor."

Calvin's condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his Sermons on Deuteronomy (1-4)

The Book of Deuteronomy sets out in exhaustive detail the duties of true believers in terms of their obedience to the Law of God. No wonder, then, that Calvin's *Sermons on Deuteronomy* offer us a massive amount of material against Papists and the Papacy.

Preaching on Deuteronomy 1:1-3, Calvin already remarks:⁹ "**The Pope** has marred and corrupted the whole order of the Church, by his taking upon him[self] to be a lawmaker to devise laws [*cf.* **Daniel 7:24-25**] and to lay them upon men's necks at his own pleasure, to forge and contrive new articles of faith, and to enforce men to receive his inventions as [if they were] the Holy Scriptures. Is this not a turning upside

down of things? Yes, for God never meant that men should have such liberty and sway in the Church, as to set forth any of their own inventions there! But only He Himself wants to be heard there.”

Again, preaching on Deuteronomy 1:9-15, Dr. Calvin insists:¹⁰ “What has caused such barbarous tyranny in the Church, as is to be seen in **the Popedom**? Behold, **the Pope has usurped an universal supremacy over the whole World**. For there must **needs** be one head -- says he. Verily! ... Who should say that Jesus Christ were discharged, Who was ordained to be the Head of both men and angels? No: but the Pope will needs thrust the Son of God out of His place!

In Deuteronomy 4:1f, the inspired Moses said to the people of God: “You shall not add anything to the word which I command you! Neither shall you take anything away from it -- to the intent you may keep the Commandments of the Lord your God which I command you!”

Observes Dr. Calvin in his sermon on that text:¹¹ “On the contrary part, it is certain that all **Popery** must needs fall to the ground -- except men’s inventions may have their full course.... [For] God’s Word may be mingled, turmoiled, stuffed, yes, and even falsified with men’s devices.... “The **Papists** cannot yield to this reason, that God should be obeyed according to His Word, and that men should be contented to be taught by Him in His school. Indeed, they will not be so bold as to deny that God’s Law is holy and rightful. But yet to their seeming, God has spoken but by halves, and men [they] say had need of a higher and profounder doctrine and of straiter laws” than God’s!

Now it should not be thought that Calvin was blind to the few commendable features of Papists. Thus in his *Sermons on Deuteronomy* (4:6-10), he frankly enjoins his Christian addressees: “Look upon the Turks [alias the Muslims]! They have some **reverence to their religion**.... **So have the Papists**.... **Still**, both of them are **cut off from the Church of God** -- through their own fault.”¹²

Calvin’s condemnations of the Romish Papacy in his Decalogical Sermons on Deuteronomy

In a sermon on Deuteronomy 5:4-7, Calvin remarks on God’s First Commandment requiring that God alone be worshipped: “We see the horrible confusion that is in **Popery**: but yet, there is not any doctrine to pluck men back to God. Nay, rather, that doctrine which is there -- draws them quite and clean [away] from Him. And we see that the Devil has gotten such footing there -- that all is full of trumpery and illusions, and the living God is quite forsaken.”¹³

The Pope’s transgressions of God’s Second Commandment, are obvious. For his backslidden communion is notorious for its employment of **images** in worship, and also for the ugly **idolatry of transubstantiation**.

God’s Fifth Commandment requires men to honour their superiors [including God as the Superior of all superiors]. Preaching on Deuteronomy 5:16, John Calvin remarks:¹⁴ “We perceive the more plainly how much we ought to abhor the cursed **Popedom**. For it is an overstateness crept up in the World, to none other end than to drive God out of His seat and to bereave Him of the honour that belongs to Him.

“For **the Pope** will grant well enough that he ought to be subject to his Superiors [*viz.* God the Father, Son and Spirit]. But what, though? Does he keep any order, either of God or of nature? No! But contrarywise, his meaning is to despise all that is contained in the Holy Scripture -- overthrowing all the order and policy that God has commanded us.

“He terms himself Christ’s Vicar [or earthly Representative]. But yet, notwithstanding [that] -- the World keeps on seeing that he has thrust Jesus Christ out of His seat, so that He is no more the Head of [the deformed and Roman Catholic part of] His Church.... This **hellish Popedom**...has no foundation at all!”

Preaching on Deuteronomy 5:18 re God’s Seventh Commandment against adultery, John Calvin remarks that the “apostate or backsliding **Church of Rome** is the very seat of **Antichrist**.”¹⁵ For she is essentially a spiritual whore.

Indeed, in a sermon on Deuteronomy 5:21 re God's Tenth Commandment against covetousness,¹⁶ Dr. John Calvin insists: "It was requisite that God should uncover the shame of the **Popedom** -- and show that the greatest clerics there, are duller witted than the silly infidels that neither heard one word of Holy Scripture. Why so? For we must take that which is written – **in the Law!**"

Finally, Dr. John Calvin sums all of this up in a sermon on Deuteronomy 6:1-4, re all ten of the Commandments. There, he boldly asks: "Were there ever any superstitions more gross and more outrageous, than are to be seen nowadays in the **Popedom**?"¹⁷

Calvin's condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his Sermons on Deuteronomy (9-12)

In a sermon on Deuteronomy 9:8-12, Calvin asks: "Is there any question of the hearing of God in the **Popedom**? Nay, verily, they work all the abominations that are against God's Word.... We see how shameless **the Pope** and all his rabble have been, in usurping such liberty to forge articles of faith, to make laws for men's souls [Daniel 7:25], and to bring the Church in[to] such bondage as to bury all pure doctrine, so that their own dreams and dotages which they had devised contrary to God's Word might be followed.... Now then, whereas **the Papists** allege their humbleness in observing the Commandments of their Church or rather hellish synagogue – it is but a devilish overweening through which they advance themselves openly against God, in commending their own folly and beastliness as highly as though their own inventions were far greater and [of a] more exquisite perfection than the wisdom of God."¹⁸

On Deuteronomy 10:15-21, Calvin preached¹⁹ "that all things are out of order in the **Popedom** -- because they be blind and ignorant; and do not know what God they serve; nor what Saint they should make their vows to (as their own proverb says). Inasmuch as, when they have tired themselves with trotting up and down, they do not know where they are but seek anew in their imaginations. Whereas to know God as He has shown Himself to us in His Word, so that they might yield to Him the reverence which is due to Him -- they have no skill of it, neither is there any tidings of it among them.... What is the means whereby men think to pacify God in the **Popedom** -- but by setting up of tapers, by burning of perfumes, and by doing such other pretty trifles!"

In sermons on Deuteronomy 12:1-7, Dr. John Calvin asks:²⁰ "Are not the Apostles the true fathers of the Christian Church? Yes, but **the Papists** will not hear them speak -- nor any other that has established such order in the Church as God has commanded. But they have their bastard fathers, like themselves, which being a misbegotten generation, they take monks and old dotterelles as their fathers....

"There are a number to be found nowadays in **the Popedom** which row between two streams, of which sort are these hypocrites which have perchance some taste of the Gospel, and can boast indeed of the preaching of God's Word.... **The Papists**...have said: 'We have Jesus Christ for our Advocate!'.... It is seen, nevertheless, [that] they let Him alone, behind them....

"Like a sort of traitors to God and His Church -- they make men believe that it is not evil to be partakers of all the abominations that are committed in it.... Therefore, let us learn not only to know that **Papists** are miserable and wretched creatures, and to condemn them in all their follies and superstitions -- but also to be ready to go to God when He calls us!....

"**The Papists** took it to themselves to keep whatever filth and infection was among the Infidels.... Were this saying of Moses's understood -- all the devilish devices that have reigned and do reign still at this day **in the Popedom**, should get them away to the bottom of hell!"²¹

In a sermon on Deuteronomy 12:8-14, Calvin says:²² "**The Papists**, notwithstanding that Jesus [has] be[en] manifested, and has accomplished all the things that were betokened in olden time -- have yet utterly overthrown that good and substantial foundation.... **The Papists** have abolished the infinite grace of God, and utterly made a mockery of it. They will needs offer sacrifice, and have attired their priests thereafter, disguising them[selves] as though it were to the playing of an interlude....

“**The Papists**...tell us that we must be contented with pictures.... That is a turning of all things upside down, and a bringing in of devilish confusion....

“We see that in **the Popedom**, there is no hearkening [to] what God says.... Let a man search all the things through which are comprised under the name in **the Popedom**, and he shall find them every one to be forged and built by men and that God not only disclaims them but also condemns them because He has shown us His certain and infallible truth....

“We see, then, how all this [godly] doctrine has been wickedly thrown down in **the Popedom**. And that is because they have perverted the true use of the figures of the law.... Again, we see that God is contented with few ceremonies. For it is not His will that we should have any more deckings, lights, perfumes, cakes, sacrificings of beasts, nor other such things.... On the contrary part, they [the Papists] have set up the abominable Mass, and will needs sacrifice Jesus Christ!”

Calvin’s condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his Sermons on Deuteronomy (13-17)

In a sermon on Deuteronomy 13:1-3, Calvin says:²³ that “the Christian Faith be impugned by the wicked which pretend not to come unto [the Triune] God -- as by the Turks, Paynims [or Pagans] and Jews -- so as they blaspheme with open mouth. Forasmuch as they be utterly cut off from the Church like rotten members, their resisting of the Gospel and their striving to abolish the Christian Religion is no great wonder to us....

And when we see ‘**false-prophets**’ step up..., let us not cease to yield this honour still to God -- that we hold ourselves to His Word and start[le] not from it by any means! ... In these days...we see that **such as call themselves ‘Christians’** and take that title most upon them -- are the worst enemies of God that a man can find. For the [confessedly unitarian] **Turks** [or Muslims] and Jews [or Judaists] are not more fiery and venomous at this day against God -- to deface the whole doctrine of salvation -- than are the [allegingly trinitarian] **Papists**....

“When we see ‘**false-prophets**’ step up...we must not fail...nor make a stumbling-block of it to step aside or start[le] away -- but overgo [or **overcome**] it, through the power of faith.... **They** could find it in their hearts to mingle...all the dotages of the **Heathen** and all the superstitions of **the Papists**, with the pureness of the **Gospel** -- and to make a **medley** of them....

Preaching on Deuteronomy 13:6-11, Dr. Calvin concedes²⁴ that “**the Papists** have a fair colour, in saying that if a man deface the majesty of a prince he shall not escape unpunished -- and therefore it is much more reason[able] that men should be punished for setting themselves against God. Yes, but in the meanwhile, they do not know what **god they** worship. For they be carried away with their own wicked and devilish superstitions....

“**The Papists** be still entangled in their superstitions.... They hold fast this principle -- that there is a God....and in the meantime...worship a puppet and...have tranformed the majesty of God.... Their intent was to worship the living God, as **the Papists** do which protest that they worship God the Maker of heaven and earth.... Likewise the Turks, who say the same thing. And so also do the Jews -- notwithstanding that they abhor Jesus Christ....

“Let us mark well, that we must hold us to the Pure Religion.... An hypocrite that would devise a new religion, as it were to set up a [**Romish**] **Popedom**...or to bring in the *Al-Coran* of **Mahomet** -- such a one ought now to be put to death, without forbearing. For so has God ordained.”

In a sermon on Deuteronomy 14:21-23, Dr. Calvin explains²⁵ that “**the Papists** have shaken off the yoke of our Lord Jesus Christ. They have withdrawn themselves from Him, and from His Church. True it is that they have baptism, which is the sign of Christianity. But they have utterly abolished the true use of baptism.”

On Deuteronomy 16:20-22, John Calvin preached:²⁶ “What a number of devices are there in **the Popedom**, which have been taken from the superstitions of the **Heathen**! All that ever is termed God’s service in **the Popedom**, is but a confused heap gathered out of...the things that are seen to have been observed by **the Heathen**.... Let us mark then that all that ever is termed by the name of God’s service at this day in **the Popedom** is but a confused hotchpotch of all manner [or kinds] of superstitions! For they cannot show that the Holy Scripture has appointed men to do so.”

In a sermon on Deuteronomy 17:2-7, Calvin asked:²⁷ “What else is **Popery**, but a corruption which has drawn all men from the obeying of God -- so as all became backsliders; all have gone astray; and all have broken the promise of their baptism? And where did this come from -- but from men’s nourishing of the evil by their winking at it, and their concealing of it until the infection was so spread abroad that both great and small were poisoned therewith?”

Calvin’s condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his *Sermons on Deuteronomy* (18)

In sermons on Deuteronomy 18:9-22 against **false-prophets**, Dr. John Calvin explains²⁸ that “**the Popish Religion** tends to no other end, than to put Jesus Christ to silence. **The Pope** boasts himself to be His ‘Vicar’ They be high mysteries which **the Pope** devised above the Gospel! Like as **Mahomet** says that his *Al-Coran* is the sovereign wisdom, so says **the Pope** of his own decrees. **For they be the two horns of Antichrist**.... Do we not see that we cannot in any wise cleave to **the Pope** – but by renouncing Christ?”

Calvin continues:²⁹ “If a man would nowadays examine the doctrine of **the Pope** – he [would] say it is not lawful.... It stands us in hand, to put this lesson in use nowadays -- because **the Pope’s** thunderings were able to make the World quake, if men were not armed beforehand against him with the things that are told us here by Moses. **The Pope** names himself Christ’s Vicar [or His Representative], the Head of the Church, St. Peter’s successor, and the Maintainer of the Apostolic See -- as if there is no Church of God but the Church of Rome; nor any Shepherd or Prelate, if **the Pope** be not head of all; nor any Kingdom of Jesus Christ otherwise than in **the Pope’s** person who [*sic!*] has the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.

“Would not the alleging of all these things make the stoutest of all to shrink, if we were not armed against them? Yes. But when all these things are pretended, we must consider whether the reporter of these -- discharges his duty faithfully. For if he speaks in God’s Name, and yet be found to be a **false harlot** -- he is the more to blame for abusing so honorable a title. And the more he was esteemed before, the less is he to be regarded afterward.

“Let him thunder his bellyful -- yet all his excommunications shall pass into smoke, and all his threatenings shall be but mere vanity! The effect, therefore, of the things which our Lord meant to say in this text -- is the being well assured by God’s Word, and having examined all doctrine (howbeit with humility).... Having used the foresaid touchstone of **the Holy Scriptures**, we may well defy all them that cloak themselves under the gay mantle of God’s Name who abuse their commission and execute tyranny instead of serving them -- and cry out against **the Pope** and his abominable wickedness, and not be afraid of anything that he can do to us. For so long as we have God on our side -- we may boldly hold scorn of **the whole Popedom**, how[soever] proud and stately they be there!”

Calvin’s condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his *Sermons on Deuteronomy* (23)

Yet **Romanists** could and should be evangelized by God’s People! John Calvin deduces this from Deuteronomy 23:7. There, God commands: “You shall not abhor an Edomite; because he is your brother! You shall not abhor an Egyptian; because you were a stranger in his land!”

The ‘general equity’ of this, argues Dr. Calvin, is that today the baptized Romanist is our brother -- just as the uncircumcised Edomite was the brother of the Israelite. Romans 4:11-13, compare Colossians 2:11-13.

Thus, in a sermon on Deuteronomy 23:7, Calvin argues³⁰ that baptized Protestants are now far closer to baptized Romanists than either of them are to unbaptized Moslems. For, in comparing circumcised Edomites to baptized Romanists and uncircumcised Egyptians to unbaptized Moslems, Calvin insists: “Moses says that **if the Edomites would yield themselves into the [True Christian alias the godly Protestant] Church of God** -- they might be received...and **be incorporated therein altogether**. For **he who offered himself to be circumcised**, was **always received**....

“Let us therefore diligently note here of **the children of [the circumcised] Esau**...that if any of them would **renounce** his own **kindred**” -- **as converted Papists should their kindred Romanists** -- “he would be accounted in the number of this blessed flock” of God’s True People.

“**Likewise at this day**” -- Dr. John Calvin explained in 1556f -- “we are far nearer neighbours to **the Papists** than to the Turks or other *Paynims* [or Heathens]. And the reason is, because albeit they [the Papists] are estranged from the grace of God and have corrupted all religion and are so entangled in their **abuses and corruptions** as it is **horrible to behold** -- yet, notwithstanding, there remains among them some footsteps of the calling of God.

“For **they have Baptism**, which is a visible sign whereby we see that God held those of His House and of His Fold. You see then, how **the Papists** are as it were the Edomites” -- who had received circumcision, which Baptism has now replaced (*cf.* Colossians 2:11-13).

Concludes Dr. Calvin: “Therefore let us endeavour as much as is possible for us, to bring them back again, so that we may be knit together again! And how knit together again? I do **not** mean that **we** should turn aside from the pure truth of God, to be[come] at agreement with **the Papists**, but that **they** should enter -- that is to say, that they should approach near unto God, and we all of us thus be reconciled, yielding obedience unto our heavenly Father, so that we may all have one Head, Jesus Christ, Who will defend us under His wings. **When the Papists** come and order themselves thus -- we are to receive them with all gentleness, by reason of the brotherhood which God has set between them and us. And we must not only do so; but also must **seek** them as much as is possible for us to do....

“Let us therefore note that **God’s opening of the gate into His Church both to the Edomites and the Egyptians**, was not to have them bring in their infections to pervert His service or to make any medley -- but rather **that the Edomites and Egyptians should come and agree in all points unto His Law**, and yield their consent unto the pureness of doctrine which is therein contained....

“Therefore **nowadays**, seeing that God has showed Himself so gracious unto us, as to make us His Church -- **let us be ready to receive them which will be reclaimed thereunto!** Yes, **let us have our arms stretched out** not only to them which are the children of God -- but also to such as are our kinsfolk afar off, endeavouring for all that **to win and to gain them!**

“Howbeit, always with this condition -- that they remove us not from God. But that they rather be knit again unto Him -- [together] with us!”

Calvin’s condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his Sermons on Deuteronomy (26-33)

In a sermon on Deuteronomy 26:5-12, Rev. Dr. John Calvin explains:³¹ “**In the Popedom**, when offerings are made there, it is but to have them wasted in pomps and heathenish vanities or rather in other villainies -- such as the Bishops and Abbots and others, every one in their degree, spend their revenues not only in gaming and hunting and other vain pastimes but also in whoredoms and in all other shameful things.... We see that the dealing of things in **the Popedom** was but to fill the bellies of the Monks and Friars, and of the other shavelings of their Clergy. But God dislikes all such things....

“The wretched **Papists** spared no cost. Everyone was ready to open his purse to cast something into the jaws of those greedy wolves. Every man brought them something, and all this was at no cost. They

founded obites or yearminds; they built chapels; they set up gay and costly puppets; they caused many Masses to be sung.... Surely **the Papists** make their offering to the Devil; for it is certain that God rejects them.

Preaching on that most important passage Deuteronomy 28:36-45, Rev. Dr. John Calvin explains:³² “We may not think that the horrible confusion which is in **the Popedom** befalls for any other cause than that whereas they have been taught the pure doctrine of the Gospel, yet they have been rebels to God.” And on Deuteronomy 32:36-39, Calvin preaches: “The despisers of all Religion...will say as they think that all the religion which is in **the Popedom** is flat mockery, and a very childish toy.... I have said before, it were much better for such if they were **Papists**.”

In sermons on Deuteronomy 33:3-11, Calvin states³³ that “**the Papists** agree in all disobedience, so as they must needs be stubborn in refusing God’s Word.... Let us not think it strange nowadays that that these **horned beasts** [cf. Daniel 7:7-25] of **the Popedom** do still usurp the title of Prelates and Bishops -- and wish needs to be worshipped under colour of vaunting themselves to have the government of the Church. This indeed is a stark lie. For it behooves us to consider whether they be set up by God or not; or whether they have thrust themselves in or not....

“Certain it is that our Lord Jesus Christ declaring the will of God His Father, and His Own will also, did not ordain dumb folk thereunto who would but vaunt themselves with a **two-horned mitre** and such other gewgaws. He did not mean to play a pageant, so that men should disguise themselves.... “Our Lord Jesus Christ did not put forth any such defilements in His Church; but Satan corrupted all things. And therefore they who at this day term themselves ‘Prelates’ in **the Popedom**, cannot allege that they be sent by God -- nor that they ought to have any authority or credit in the Name of Jesus Christ....

“We may boldly conclude that in **Popery** there is no Church at all, but a **hellish Synagogue**; and that whosoever meddles there or thrusts himself in among them, forsakes Jesus Christ and cuts himself off as a rotten Member from His Church. Lo, at what point **the Papists** are!” Compare too the Calvin-istic *Westminster Confession of Faith* 25:5-6.

Calvin’s condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his *Commentary on the Psalms*

On Psalm 78:60f, Calvin comments³⁴ on the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple: “Disgusting, then, is the boasting of **the Pope** and his adherents who support the claims of Rome as the special dwelling-place of God -- from the fact that the Church in former times flourished in that city. It is to be remembered -- what they [who support Rome] seem to forget -- that Christ, Who is the true temple of the Godhead, was born [not in Rome but] in Bethlehem and brought up in Nazareth, and that He dwelt and preached in Capernaum and Jerusalem; and yet, the miserable desolation [today] of all these cities, affords a dreadful testimony of the wrath of God.” Will not Rome be next?

On Psalm 83:5f, Calvin comments³⁵ on the plots of the ungodly against the true children of God: “We see how **the Pope** has inflamed the whole World in array against us [viz the Protestants] with diabolical rage. Hence it is, that in whatever direction we turn our eyes -- we meet with just so many hostile armies to destroy us. But when we have once arrived at a settled persuasion that no strange thing is happening to us -- the contemplation of the condition of the Church in olden time[s] will strengthen us for continuing in the exercise of patience, until God suddenly displays His power which is perfectly able without any created aid to frustrate all the attempts of the World....

“The case is analogous to that of **the Papists** in the present day. If any were to ask them, when they hold consultations for the express purpose of accomplishing our destruction, whether they were stronger than God -- they would immediately reply that they had no intention whatever of assaulting Heaven.... But God, having declared that every injury which is done to us is an assault upon Him, we may as from a watch-tower behold in the distance by the eye of faith the approach of that **destruction** which **the devotees of Antichrist shall have at length** the sad and melancholy experience!”

On Psalm 118:22-25f, Calvin comments³⁶ that it may be asked how the Prophet [David] designates those as 'master-builders' who, far from wishing the protection of the [true] Church, aim at nothing so much as the demolition of the entire structure? We know, for instance, with what vehemence the scribes and priests in Christ's time laboured to subvert all true piety.... In our day also -- **the Pope** and his filthy clergy who usurp the title of the priesthood, nevertheless continue the professed enemies of Christ. >From which it follows that they are anything but God's legitimate servants.... While they scatter the flock, their condemnation will be the greater....

"We ought to remember that all that was accomplished in the Person of Christ -- extends to the **gradual development** of His Kingdom, even **until the end of the World**.... We know that the [Judaistic] 'master-builders' have endeavoured to subvert the Kingdom of Christ. The same thing is taking place in our times, in those who were intrusted with the superintendence of **the Church** having made every attempt to overturn that Kingdom by directing against it all the machinery which they can devise. But if we call to mind this prophecy, our faith will not fail but will **be more and more confirmed**" or **strengthened** -- even while "countless multitudes are being hurried away to the imposture of **Satan** and to **the Pope**."³⁷

Calvin's condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his *Commentary on Isaiah*

Calvin dedicates his *Commentary on the Book of the Prophet Isaiah* to Queen Elizabeth the First of England, and there tells her:³⁸ "You too ought to be stimulated ...by a sacred regard to duty. For the Prophet Isaiah [49:23] demands not only from kings that they be 'nursing-fathers' but also from queens that they be 'nursing-mothers'.... This duty you ought to discharge...by **removing the filth of Popery**."

In that commentary on what Calvin calls 'The Gospel according to Isaiah' -- he comments³⁹ that "**the Papists** are accustomed to set aside the true meaning of the Scriptures, and to spoil all the mysteries of God by their own fooleries.... At the present day, when **the Papists** have lighted their lamps and adorned their temples; when they dazzle with gold and precious stones; when they have played on their organs and rung their bells -- they imagine that they are the happiest of all men, as if there were now no reason to dread that any evil should come to them from God."

Yet "the Earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord'.... Under **Popery**...the light of doctrine is choked and almost distinguished.... Accordingly the Church, having been at that time exposed to reproaches and disgrace, **He promises** that it will again be raised to a **more prosperous** condition, and will **recover its ancient glory**" and even **advanced** to a **yet greater glory**.⁴⁰

How will that then occur? Comments Calvin:⁴¹ "**Popery** and all its corruption arose.... It was an imposthume [or purulent] *aposteema* [or interim abcess] bred in the very bowels of **the Church**, which sent forth offensive and diseased matter....

"How absurdly **the Papists** in the present day consider the Church to be bound to Peter's chair! -- as if God could nowhere find a habitation in the whole World, but in the See of Rome.... Was any promise made to Rome, such as was made to Jerusalem? ... Do we not see what Isaiah declares about Jerusalem -- that God is driven from it when there is not room for doctrine when the worship of God is corrupted?

"What then shall be said of [**papal**] **Rome**, which has no testimony? Can she boast of anything, in preference to Jerusalem? If God pronounces a curse on the most holy city [of Jerusalem] which He had chosen in a special manner -- what must we say of the rest, who have overturned His holy laws [cf. Daniel 7:25] and all godly institutions?"

Finally, on Isaiah 32:6, Dr. Calvin comments:⁴² "**More and more** every day...an exposure is made of that wickedness which had been concealed under the mask of **Popery** and the strange folds of superstitions.... **The Papists** slander us, as if by our doctrine we gave loose reins to men and exhorted them to despise God and follow wickedness without fear or shame. But let them listen to Isaiah, who replies that, when the truth of God shall be made known -- vile persons will speak vileness, and wicked persons will speak

baseness.... Christ would not be a spiritual Judge, if He did not 'reveal the secret thoughts of the heart and bring every hidden thing to light' (Luke 2:35)!"

Calvin's condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his *Commentaries on Jeremiah*

Calvin's *Commentaries on Jeremiah* offer a lot of material on the Papacy -- which the genius of Geneva there compares to the apostate priesthood in Ancient Israel. In that regard, he comments:⁴³ "We see how fatuitous is the boasting of **the Pope** and of his filthy clergy, when they wickedly dare to appropriate to themselves what is here said [in Jeremiah 1:9f]. 'We are,' they say, 'above both kings and nations.' By what right? 'God has thus spoken by the Prophet Jeremiah' [they reply].

"But [there,] these two things are to be joined together -- 'I have put My words in your mouth' and 'I have appointed you over nations and kingdoms.' Now let **the Pope** show that he is furnished with the Word of God; that he claims for himself nothing that is his own or apart from God -- in a word, that he introduces nothing of his own devices! ... But as these [papal] swine and dogs are empty of all true doctrine and piety, what effrontery it is -- yes, what stupidity -- to boast that they have authority over kings and nations!"

Jeremiah, in 2:8 & 2:27f, condemns Judaists for then making and praying to their idols. Comments Rev. Dr. John Calvin:⁴⁴ "There is, then, no reason for **the Papists** to think that they are at this day unlike these ancient impostors -- because **they** [the Papists] profess the Name of the only true God. It has always been so....

"There is not the least doubt but that the superstition which now prevails under **the Papacy**, is even more gross than that which prevailed among the Jews.... **The Papists**...mutter 'Our Father' in front of their statues. There is no doubt but that when they present their prayers to statues, they consider God's power to be in them!"

In Jeremiah 5:30f, God insisted through that inspired Prophet: "A wonderful and horrible thing is being committed in the land. The Prophets prophesy **falsely**; and **the priests** bear rule by their means. And My people love to have it so! But what will you do in the end thereof?"

Comments Calvin:⁴⁵ "The Prophet evidently shows that there was a mutual collusion between the false-prophets and the priests.... The same thing is to be seen at this day under **the Papacy**. The monks flatter the people and prop up the whole system of **Poperly**. And hence these unprincipled men call themselves 'the chariots of the Pope.' For **the Pope** is carried, as it were, on four wheels -- the four mendicant orders.... We see how he has honoured and daily honours these mendicants with privileges. And why? Because they prop up his tyranny.

"Such was at that time the state of the people [of Ancient Israel]. The priests took their prey, and the false-prophets snatched also a part of it -- like these hungry dogs at this day, who still do not act so oppressively as does **the Pope**. They as it were lick his seat, like dogs -- while he and his mitred [or **horned**] Bishops devour the fattest spoils."

In Jeremiah 7:21-24, that Prophet rebuked the Jews for their apostasy at that time. There, Calvin comments:⁴⁶ "If **the Papists** admitted that obedience is of more account with God than all sacrifices (First Samuel 15:22), we might easily agree. They might afterwards debate every article of Faith. But there would [then] in the main be an agreement between us -- if they were to submit simply and unreservedly to the Word of God.

"But we see how pertinaciously they insist [that]...they regard the doctrine of the Fathers, and what they call the perpetual consent of the Catholic Church -- as [being to them] of more value than the Law and the Prophets and the Gospel.... They, fostering their own blindness, strive to extinguish the light and wilfully envelop themselves in darkness. Let **us** follow what God's Spirit shows to us here -- [viz.] that the main part of true and right worship and service, is to **hear God**....

“**The Papists** indeed pretend antiquity. They say that they have been taught by their ancestors -- and at the same time, they plead councils and the ordinances of the Fathers. But yet there is not one of them who is not addicted to his own figments, and who does not take the liberty -- nay, an unbridled licence -- to reject whatever he pleases.

“Moreover, if the origin of the whole **papal worship** be considered, it will appear that those who first devised so many strange superstitions -- were impelled only by audacity and presumption, in order that they might trample underfoot the Word of God. Hence it is that all things have become corrupt. For they brought in all the strange figments of their own brains. And we see that **the Papists** at this day are so perversely fixed in their own errors -- that they prefer themselves and their own trumperies to God!”

In Jeremiah 22:1-3, Calvin comments:⁴⁷ “Most foolishly does **the Pope** at the present day seek to exempt himself from all reproof -- because he ‘occupies the apostolic throne.’ **Were** we to grant what is claimed (though that is frivolous and childish), that the Roman throne is apostolic (which I think has never been occupied by Peter) -- surely the throne of David was much more venerable than the chair of Peter? And yet the descendants of David, who succeeded him -- being types and representatives of Christ -- were not on that account, as we see here, exempt from reproof!”

In Jeremiah 23:1, God Himself declares through that inspired Prophet: “Woe be unto the Pastors who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!” There Calvin comments:⁴⁸ “When we speak in the present day of **the Pope** and his mitred [or as he elsewhere states **horned**] Bishops and filthy Clergy -- we use expressions which are employed commonly. But **Antichrist** is everything but a ‘father’ -- and we know how far they that assume the title are from being really Bishops.... It is a great aggravation of their guilt that they, being devils, should assume angelic names; that they, being wolves & robbers and sacrilegious, should falsely pretend God’s Name and recommend themselves by spurious titles -- as though they were Pastors!”

In Jeremiah 23:11, God insisted: “Both Prophet and Priest are profane!” There Calvin comments:⁴⁹ “**The Papists**...think that they ingeniously evade every objection as to the crimes of **the Pope** and his filthy Clergy, by saying that **the Pope may indeed be wicked** (as almost all of them have been), and that the same thing may be said of their mitred [or **horned**] Bishops -- but that **the Pope, as a Pope**, cannot err; and that the Bishops, as Bishops...in their government and office, are ruled by the Holy Spirit because they represent the Church.

“But are they better than these ancient priests whom God Himself had expressly appointed? ... The Prophet here not only says that they were wicked; that they acted impiously and wickedly towards their neighbours; that they committed plunders and robberies; that they were given to violence and rapacity; that they abandoned themselves to adultery and to every other crime. But he says also, that their wickedness was found **in the very Temple** -- that is, in the very sacred office itself. For not only was their life wicked. But they also impiously and perfidiously corrupted the doctrine of God, and subverted His worship.”

Finally, in Jeremiah 30:8-9 -- through that inspired Prophet -- God Himself predicts the arrival of the Reformation of His Church, and its deliverance. However, that deliverance would be not just from **the Papacy**, but also from the even greater menace of lawless or **antinomian Anabaptism**.

Comments Calvin:⁵⁰ “This doctrine is suitable to our time! For if God were now only to break down the tyranny of **the Pope** and deliver His Own people and permit them to wander here and there, so as to allow everyone to follow his own will as his law -- how dreadful would be the confusion! It is **better that the Devil should rule men** under any sort of **government** -- than that they should be set free without any law, without any restraint.

“Our time, indeed, sufficiently proves [through *e.g.* the antinomian Anabaptists *etc.*], that these two things have not without reason been joined together. That is, that God would become the Liberator of His people so as to shake off the [**papal**] yoke of miserable bondage and to break their chains -- and also that He would be a King to **govern** His people!” Rather the Papacy than Anabaptism!

So then, bad as **legalistic Papistry** is – lawless Anabaptism is still worse! As also Calvin’s Scottish Student the Reformer Rev. John Knox tells the Anabaptists in his own *Answer to a Great Number of Blasphemous Cavillations Written by an Anabaptist and Adversary*:⁵¹ “With the Pelagians and the **Papists**...your poison is more pestilent than that of the **Papistry!**”

Calvin’s condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his Commentaries on Ezekiel

In Ezekiel 2:8, God says to that Prophet in respect of the Old Testament **Church Visible** alias the **House of Israel**: “Do not be rebellious like **that** rebellious House!” Indeed, Calvin appropriately comments here:⁵² “When formerly the Israelites pretended that they were God’s people and were adorned by the marks of a true Church, we must hold that the honour of the Church is frivolous when hypocrites reign in it or rather exercise impious tyranny and oppose themselves to God and His doctrine.... At this very day, we may turn this passage against **the Papists** -- nay, even point it at them directly, as often as they bring up those pompous titles of ‘the Catholic Church’ and ‘the Spouse of Christ.’”

In Ezekiel 3:17f, where God says to that Prophet ‘I have made you a watchman to the House of Israel’ -- Calvin comments:⁵³ “How is it that men of no authority now dare to spread abroad their own fictions, as we see done in **the Papacy**? For what is such a religion, but a confused jumble of the numberless fictions of men? They have heaped together, from many brains, an immense chaos of errors....

“**False-teachers**, indeed, proudly assume the Name of God; as we see in **the Papacy**.... We know that proud men always tyrannize over the conscience when they take upon themselves the prophetic name and substitute themselves in the place of God -- as their practice is, in **the Papacy**.”

“For **the Pope** indeed pretends that he does nothing in his own proper name -- but meanwhile he claims the prerogative of God and sits in the temple as an idol [*cf.* Second Thessalonians 2:3f].... **The Papists** themselves heap on their own comments, and so it comes to pass that they miserably distort and drown their own consciences even to utter destruction. They enact laws according to their pleasure [*cf.* Daniel 7:25].... All those are sacrilegious who bind consciences with their own laws, decrees and enactments -- enforcing one thing and forbidding another -- because they take away from God what He here wishes to be assigned to Him.”

In Ezekiel 8:12, God asks that Prophet: “Have you seen what the Elders of the House of Israel are doing in the dark -- every man in the chambers of his imagery?” Here, John Calvin comments:⁵⁴ “**The Elders of the people of Israel...in the very recesses of their thought, fabricated idols for themselves**.... This impiety has occurred in **all** ages.... It clearly appears in **the Papacy**.”

In Ezekiel 13:19-23, God warns against the polluting of religion. Here, John Calvin comments:⁵⁵ “We see many rites exhibited in **the Papacy**, so that the incredulous -- being snatched, as it were, out of the World -- are not only delirious but allow themselves to be drawn in any direction, like cattle, by the grossest impostures. But in their teaching, we perceive what Ezekiel condemns -- namely, that they give life to souls devoted to death, and slay souls which ought to be kept alive.

“For what is the meaning of their immense heap of laws [*cf.* Daniel 7:25], except to bury wretched consciences? For anyone who wishes to satisfy the laws of **the Papacy** from his heart, must cut himself to pieces, so to speak, through[*out*] his whole life....

“They frighten wretched consciences. But by what right? By transferring the power of God to themselves. Just as at the present day, **the Pope** with swelling cheeks thunders forth that he himself and his throne are apostolic and therefore infallible. Since, therefore, **false-prophets** thus contend by fallacies -- the simple are overcome by fear.”

On Ezekiel 16:20f, Rev. Dr. Calvin comments:⁵⁶ “In **the Papacy**, such declension has grown up through many ages -- that they have altogether denied God.... Yet it is certain that a portion of God’s covenant remains among them.... Although they have cut themselves off from God and altogether abandoned Him by their perfidy, yet God remains faithful. Romans 3:3-4.... Hence it arises that our [Roman Catholic]

baptism does not need renewal. Because although the Devil has long reigned in **the Papacy** -- yet he could not altogether extinguish God's grace. Nay, a **Church** is among them. For otherwise, Paul's prophecy would have been false -- [*viz.*] when he says that **Antichrist** was seated in the **Temple of God**. Second Thessalonians 2:4.

"If in **the Papacy** there had been only Satan's dunghill or brothel, and no form of a **Church** had remained in it -- this had been a proof that **Antichrist** did not sit in the **Temple of God**. But this, as I have said, exaggerates their crime -- and is very far from enabling them to erect their crests as they do.... The **Church** is indeed among them. That is, God has His Church [also] **there** -- but hidden, and wonderfully preserved. But it does not follow that they are worthy of any honour. Nay, they are more detestable -- because they ought to bear sons and daughters to God....

"The Jews were naturally accursed, through being Adam's seed. But by supernatural and similar privilege, they were exempt and free from the curse. Since circumcision was a testimony of the adoption by which God had consecrated them to Himself. Hence, they were holy.... As to their being impure, it could not -- as we have said -- abolish God's covenant. The same thing ought at this time to prevail in **the Papacy**.... And so Paul says that the children of the faithful are holy, since baptism does not lose its efficacy and the adoption of God remains fixed. First Corinthians 7:14."

How Protestants should therefore labour to liberate Christians within Romanism -- from the tyranny of that Babylonian captivity! For, as in the case of Luther and Calvin themselves -- it is precisely Ex-Romanists who make the most consistent Protestants!

Calvin's condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his Commentaries on Daniel (2-6)

In Daniel 2:34f & 2:44, that Prophet predicted the Messiah would come and smash the Fourth World Empire. Said Daniel to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, in respect of the image of a ruler which the latter had dreamed about: "Keep on looking, till a Stone gets cut out, without hands-- [a Stone] Which smites the image upon its feet that are of **iron and clay!**"

Pre-incarnational Israelites (before the birth of Jesus Christ) regarded that fourth or iron-and-clay kingdom as the Pagan Roman Empire -- which later divided into two, the Eastern and the Western, like the **hard yet brittle** legs of the image of the ruler in the above prediction. It is clear the fourth iron kingdom is in fact the Pagan Roman Empire, in **both** its **Ancient-Pagan** as well as also in its later **Papal** and **Islamic** format. Indeed, it further seems that this fourth iron kingdom is as well the later Western-Roman Papal and the contemporaneous Eastern-Roman Islamic Empire into which it then **subdivided**.

As Rev. Dr. John Calvin comments⁵⁷ in his 1561 *Commentaries on Daniel* (at 2:35 and 2:44) -- that Prophet "speaks of **the Roman Empire** as **iron**.... Daniel says the image perished when the Roman Empire was **broken up**.... The dream was presented to King Nebuchadnezzar -- so that he might understand all future events till the renovation of the World.... There is no doubt, then, that **Daniel intended the Romans by the Fourth Empire.**"

On Daniel 2:47, Calvin comments:⁵⁸ "We must observe how severe and dreadful a judgment awaits **Papists** and all like them who at least ought to be imbued with the rudiments of piety -- while they confess the existence of only one supreme God but yet mingle together a great multitude of deities, and dishonour both His power and wisdom.... For **the Papists** not only divide God's power by distributing it in parts to each of their saints; but also, when they speak of God Himself, they fancy Him as knowing all things beforehand but yet leaving all things contingent on man's free will....

"But when **the Papists** lay their foundation in the will of man -- we see how they deprive God of His rights. Let us learn, then -- from this passage -- not to attribute to God less than was conceded by this profane king" Nebuchadnezzar.

In Daniel 3:2f, it is recorded how “King Nebuchadnezzar sent to collect together all the governors, generals and prefects to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had erected” -- explains Calvin.⁵⁹ “And to this day, the same error is maintain in **the Papacy**. For as long as images remain with the statuary or the painter, they are not venerated. But as soon as an image is dedicated by any private ceremony (which **the Papists** call a ‘devotion’), or by any public and solemn rite -- the tree, the wood, the stone, and the colours become a god! **The Papists** also have fixed ceremonies among their exorcisms -- in consecrating statues and pictures....

“The Chaldeans...supposed God [to be] like themselves. For whatever delights us, we think must also please the Deity. Hence the immense heap of ceremonies in **the Papacy**.... Hence we [*viz.* **the Papists**] think this is to be required of us by God -- as if He delighted in what pleases us!”

In Daniel 4:27, one finds a record of King Nebuchadnezzar being called upon to repent. Here Dr. Calvin comments of that king’s pagan Babylonians:⁶⁰ “They have no regard for what pleases God, nor for what He commands in His Word.... They thrust themselves rashly upon God -- as we see in **the Papacy**. For what is a holy and religious life **with them**? To run about, here and there; to undertaken pilgrimages imposed by vows; to set up a statue; to found Masses, as they call it; to fast on certain days; and to lay stress on trifles about which God has never said a single word....

“**The Papists** have abused this passage -- to show God to be appeased by satisfactions. It is too frivolous and ridiculous to refute their doctrine. For when they speak of satisfactions, they mean works of supererogation. If anyone **could** fulfil God’s Law completely -- yet he could not satisfy for his sins! **The Papists** are compelled to confess this.... Daniel does not here exact of King Nebuchadnezzar any work of supererogation.... Truly, there is no supererogation here! To what end, then, serves the Law? Surely this has no reference to satisfactions, according to the ridiculous and foolish notions of **the Papists**!”

On Daniel 6:21-23, John Calvin comments:⁶¹ “**The Papists** trifle, like children, when they use this passage to elicit from it human merits. For Daniel wished to assert nothing but the pure worship of God -- as if he had said not only his reason proceeded from God, but [also that] there was another cause for his deliverance; namely, the wish of the Almighty to show the World experimentally the justice of His cause.... Whenever men have any conception of God at all, **the Papists** think this to be faith. But the Holy Spirit teaches us far otherwise.”

Rev. Prof. Dr. John Calvin’s condemnations of the Romish Papacy from Daniel chapter 7

In Daniel 7:7f & 7:20, that Prophet predicted the rise of a ‘little horn’ within the Roman Empire. Though first but ‘little’ -- that horn would later become very ‘stout’ and arrogant.

In his *Commentary on Daniel*⁶² Calvin shows that Daniel 7:7-22’ s’ ‘little horn’ would, long before the Protestant Reformation, grow into a very ‘stout’ horn or a powerful political foreejust like the political and religious power mentioned in Daniel 11:30-38f. This is the **pagan Roman Empire** (as the forerunner of the **papal Roman Vatican**).

Indeed, as Dr. Calvin adds in his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*:⁶³ “We call the **Roman Pontiff** ‘**Antichrist**’ **Antichrist** would sit in the Temple of God.... The Spirit...says that his reign would be with great swelling words of vanity (Daniel 7:25).”

Dr. John Calvin further comments⁶⁴ that “in this **Fourth Monarchy** -- those who are endued with moderate judgment, confess this vision to be fulfilled in the **Roman Empire**.... What is here said of the Fourth Beast -- many transfer to **the Pope**, when it is added that a ‘**Little Horn**’ sprang up. Christ’s Kingdom was erected by the overthrow of the **Roman** dominion.... I have no doubt that in this vision, the Prophet was shown the figure of the **Roman Empire**....

“The ‘**little horn**’ ...**clearly** ought to be referred to the **end** of the **Roman Empire**.... To this very day, the Germans also say they possess the Roman Empire. But while the title of ‘Empire’ has passed to the

Germans, **clearly** enough Rome is at this very day in slavery. For as to the Pope having erected his own throne there, this 'Empire' is unworthy of the name of monarchy."

Yet Daniel 7:20 goes on to relate that this horn does **not remain little**. For this is the "horn that had eyes [alias a Papal Intelligence Service] and a mouth [or a Propaganda Machine] which spoke very great things - [a horn] whose appearance became more stout than its fellows."

Comments Dr. John Calvin: "The subjugation of so many kings by the **Romans**, was a difference worthy of notice.... We have shown how provinces were denoted by the ten horns, and how the difference between the **Roman Empire** and other monarchies was pointed out.... Here, then, the **continual state** of the **Roman Empire** is under review."

Commenting on Daniel 7:23f, Dr. John Calvin shows that "the 'Fourth Beast' signifies 'a fourth kingdom' which shall differ from all the kingdoms.... The **Roman Empire** we know...to have been more extensive and powerful than the other monarchies.... We shall find the Church to have been much more heavily afflicted **after** Christ's [first] advent, and to have been opposed by the Caesars in open warfare.... The Caesars became more and more stirred up to carry on war against the elect, and to oppress the Church.... Those who understand this of **Antichrist** -- think their opinion confirmed.... The **Roman Empire** was blotted out....

"**The Papists**...clothe themselves in the spoils of God -- as if God had resigned His right to them. But they are immersed in the same error with the Jews...; as if they could remain separate from God and yet obtain the right of treading the whole World underfoot! **The Papists** do exactly the same."⁶⁵

In his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Dr. John Calvin himself applies Daniel 7:25 to the A.D. 600f **Papacy**. For there he remarks:⁶⁶ "We call **the Roman Pontiff Antichrist**.... Paul says that **Antichrist would sit in the Temple of God** (Second Thessalonians 2:4). In another passage -- the Spirit...says his reign would be with great swelling words of vanity (Daniel 7:25)....

"All the heresies and schisms which have existed from the beginning, belong to the kingdom of **Antichrist**. Yet -- when Paul foretells that defection will come -- he by this description intimates that that seat of abomination will be erected when a kind of universal defection comes upon the **Church**.... This calamity was neither to be introduced by one man, nor to terminate in one man.... Second Thessalonians 2:3; Daniel 7:9....

"The mark by which he [Paul] distinguishes **Antichrist** -- is that he would rob God of His honour and take it to himself.... It is certain that the **Roman Pontiff** has impudently transferred to himself the most peculiar properties of God and Christ. There cannot be a doubt that he is **the Leader and Standard-bearer** of that impious and **abominable kingdom!**" Thus Calvin's *Institutes*.

Calvin's condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his Commentaries on Daniel (8-9)

In Daniel 8:23-25, that Prophet predicts that "in the latter time...when the transgressors have come to the full -- a king[dom] of fierce countenance and understanding dark sentences shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty...and he shall destroy wonderfully and shall prosper and practise and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his politics, he shall also cause craft to prosper in his hand.... He shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand."

Calvin here comments:⁶⁷ "Luther...refers this passage to the masks of **Antichrist**.... Some [others too] think this prophecy refers to **Antichrist**....

"These interpreters suppose this passage to unfold that devastation of **the Church** which would take place after the coming of Christ and the promulgation of the Gospel.... Others...suppose the angel to treat of **Antiochus** -- for the purpose of [pre-]depicting in his person the figure of **Antichrist**....

“It would please me better to see anyone wishing to adapt this prophecy to the **present** use of the **Church**..., apply **by analogy** to **Antichrist** what is said of **Antiochus**. We know that whatever happened to the [Old Testament] Church of old, belongs **also to us** – because **we** [in **1561** when Rev. Dr. John Calvin said this] have fallen upon the **fullness** of times.... With how much reason does the Apostle say there **would** be **false-teachers** in the **Kingdom of Christ** -- as there were formerly **false-prophets!** (Second Peter 2:1).”

It is interesting to note that also Luther applies Daniel 8:23-25 not only to the **Roman Pope** but **also** to Antiochus Epiphanes. Indeed, he does the same at Daniel 11:33f. As we shall see below, so too does Calvin⁶⁸ -- especially in his understanding of the way St. Paul incorporates Daniel 11:36f into Second Thessalonians 2:3f (which latter Calvin himself applies to **the Pope**).

So too, on Daniel 9:5-18, Calvin comments:⁶⁹ “In **the Papacy**...they proudly use God’s Name as approving certain assemblies of theirs. It is no new thing, then, for **a deceiving Church** to hide its baseness under this **mask**..... A complete repugnance exists between the gratuitous goodness of God and all the merits of man. How stupid are those who strive to combine them, according to the usual practice of **the Papacy!**” Thus Calvin, on Daniel chapters 8 and 9.

Calvin’s condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his Commentaries on Daniel (11:30)

In chapter ten, the Prophet next describes events in the last stages of the Third or Grecian World Empire. Then at Daniel 11:30 he predicts that thereafter, “the ships of’ Chittim’ ...shall come.”

This means that “**the Roman power** shall come against” the Hellenistic Antiochus Epiphanes and his successors. Thus the *Geneva Bible* of Rev. John Knox and Mrs. John Calvin’ s brother-in-law Rev. Dr. William Whittingham. There, they follow the opinion of Calvin himself (see below).

The above naval attack by “the ships of Chittim” would occur about a century-and-a-half before the birth of Christ. But first, after the death of Daniel and the return of some of the Israelites from their exile in Babylon -- their previously-destroyed temple would be reconstructed under the Persians.

That Persian Empire was displaced by the third or the Greek World-Empire. Then, around B.C. 170-168, Jerusalem’ s temple was desecrated- by the evil Hellenistic tyrant Antiochus Epiphanes.

The latter was stationed chiefly in Syria. Thence he constantly ravaged the Holy Land. Antiochus did that once too often, however, when he swept down toward Egypt. For Egypt then finally and successfully appealed to **the Romans** for help against him.

That help came *inter alia* in the form of “**the ships of Chittim**” alias **the Roman navy**. Thus this Antiochus was forced to release his hold not only over Egypt but also over the Holy Land and its reconstructed temple (which he himself had desecrated but not destroyed).

Dr. Calvin here comments⁷⁰ on this word ‘Chittim’: “By comparing all the passages of Scripture in which the word occurs [Genesis 10:4 and Numbers 24:24 and Daniel 11:30 *etc.*], we shall find all the Gentiles denoted by it -- from Macedon through the whole of Greece, as far as Illyricum and **Italy**.... The Macedonians, Greeks and **Italians** are included under this term. This passage is free from all doubt, because **Antiochus** was restrained not by the Greek but by **the Romans**.”

Calvin’s condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his Commentaries on Daniel (11:34-45)

At Daniel 11:34, that great Prophet says of then-still-**future** evil **rulers**: “Many shall cleave to **them** with flatteries.” There, Calvin comments:⁷¹ “We observe similar effects at this day [1561] in **the Papacy** -- as they corrupt the whole World by their sacrifices.... There is here also a tacit contrast between the honest

servants of God and those fictitious teachers who pride themselves on their titles -- as we observe an instance of this, in these days, in **the Papacy**....

“In these days, the very counterpart of **this prophecy** is exhibited before our eyes. **The entire Papacy** is called ‘the Church of God’.... **The Papists** treat their own community, which is defiled with filth of all kinds, as the only Church. There, piety is subverted utterly -- or else contaminated with the multitude of **superstitions** and...**papal idolatries**.”

In Daniel 11:35, that Prophet predicts that “some of them of understanding shall...try and purge and make them white -- even till the time of the end. For it is appointed yet for a time.”

Here Calvin comments:⁷² “This reminds us of the great folly of **the Papists**.... This is **the papal theology** and these miserable sophists are not ashamed of these gross blasphemies.”

In Daniel 11:36, that Prophet predicts that “**the king** shall do according to his will. And he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods.” See too Daniel 12:10f and Second Thessalonians 2:3f.

Here Calvin comments:⁷³ “The Jews....are not agreed among themselves.... Some explain it of **Antiochus**, and others of **the Romans**.... The Christian expositors present much variety, but the greater number incline towards **Antichrist** as fulfilling the prophecy. Others, again, use greater moderation by supposing **Antichrist** to be hinted at here obliquely, while they do not exclude **Antiochus** as the type and image of **Antichrist**. This last opinion has great probability....

“**Antiochus** did not long survive the pollution of the Temple [around 168f B.C.].... Some of the rabbins explain this of **the Romans**.... I apply it entirely to **the Roman Empire**.... By the word ‘king’ I [Calvin] do not think a single person indicated, but an **empire** [or **kingdom**], whatever be its government....

“We lay this down at once. The Angel did not prophesy about Antiochus or any single monarch but of a **new empire**, meaning **the Roman**.... The Angel passes at once from Antiochus to **the Romans**.... “I now proceed to the words ‘**the king** shall do according to his will.’ I have stated that we need not restrict this expression to a single person, as the Angel prophesies about the continued course of **the Roman Monarchy**. ‘He shall raise himself up, and magnify himself,’ says he, ‘above every god.’” As formerly in Daniel 7:8f, so too here in Daniel 11:36 -- this would be done first by the **Roman Emperors**, and later by the **Roman Popes** who would subsequently step into their shoes.

“The Angel then says most truly of this [**Roman**] **Empire**,” continues Calvin, that “‘it shall magnify itself against all deities’ and ‘it shall speak wonderful things against the God of gods’.... Here also the Angel treats of a long succession...which prevents the application of the passage to **Antiochus**.... While the Angel was predicting future changes -- there was no omission of **the Roman Empire**, which is introduced again here.”

In Daniel 11:37f, that Prophet predicts of that coming **Roman Kingdom**: “Neither shall he regard the god of his fathers; nor the desire of women; nor regard any god. For he shall magnify himself above all.... In his estate, he shall honour the god of forces...with gold and silver and with precious stones.” Any trip to the Vatican, whose treasures in excess of two trillion dollars in value are such that no consortium of insurance companies will underwrite them -- can corroborate this statement.

Comments Calvin:⁷⁴ “This prediction of the Angel’s was never accomplished by **Antiochus**.... Some refer the prophecy to **the Pope**.... And the phrase ‘the love of women’ seems to give probability to this view....

“Those who think **the Popes** to be intended here, remind us of their enforcing celibacy.... We know with what foulness **the Roman Pontiffs** bark -- when marriage is hinted to them.... We observe, then, some slight **correspondence**.... Some assert that [just] as Mahomet invented a new form of religion, so did **the Pope**. True indeed....

“We must now come to **the Romans** -- of whom we began to explain the passage.... **The Romans**...manifested a gross contempt of God, while they maintained the appearance of piety.”

While it is true that Calvin here focusses primarily on Ancient Imperial Rome, that he no means excludes Papal Rome as its obvious successor. See Leopold von Ranke's great work *History of the Popes*.

Although the Romans gave indirect assistance to the Hebrews even from B.C. 170 onward, it was only from B.C. 63 onward that **the Romans actually occupied the Holy Land**. That occupation was accomplished by Pompey. Then, under Julius Caesar's nephew Octavian Augustus **Jesus Christ was born there**.

Now that time of the Roman occupation of the Holy Land, would be one of great tribulation even for the true People of God there. However, it would occur only from B.C. 63 onward -- alias about a century **after the Roman "ships of Chittim"** came to the Near East in B.C. 168f against Antiochus Epiphanes.⁷⁵

Future redemption, declared Daniel, would come -- and, indeed, precisely during the time when the *Chittim* alias the Pagan Romans actually occupied the Holy Land. Indeed, that epoch would end in a "time of trouble such as never was, since there was a[ny] Nation -- even to that same time." This is exactly what the inspired Angel Gabriel had just pointed out to Daniel.

Calvin's general condemnation of the Romish Papacy from his Commentaries on Daniel (12)

Indeed, in Daniel chapter twelve, God concluded His revelation to Daniel -- as regards that same Roman period, and the ages which follow it. There, even further details are given about the nature of "everlasting righteousness" and of the **many** who inherit it through the incarnation of Christ.

That would be a time when, according to the first-century A.D. Jewish Historian Josephus, fully a million Non-Christian Jews would brutally be butchered both by one another and by the Romans -- a time when less than one-tenth of that huge number would escape. It would also be a time when True Hebrews, namely Hebrew-**Christians**, would be spared; a time of "great tribulation such as never was since the beginning of the World until that time -- no, nor ever shall be!"⁷⁶

That redemption the Angel Gabriel told Daniel (as Jesus too later told His Disciples) would occur during the same lifetime or generation that Christ's first Disciples and indeed His Own contemporaries would "see the abomination of desolation (spoken about by **Daniel the Prophet**) standing in the holy place."⁷⁷ It would be the time when the "eagles" or unclean vultures on the standards of the Roman armies would "be gathered together" to devour **Judaists'** carcasses⁷⁸ -- **after** the Hebrew **Christians** "in Judaea flee into the mountains,"⁷⁹ protected by their Saviour Michael-Christ!

In other words, that time of salvation for the Hebrew Christians as God's People would arrive in Daniel chapter nine's seventieth week- **after** Christ's Own Baptism and later death on Calvary. That would be in the same generation when **the Roman armies** would later arrive in Jerusalem during mid-66 -- shortly before destroying it in A.D. 70.

Now the whole of Daniel chapter twelve should be read as referring to one continuous period. This would commence with Michael-Christ's deliverance of His People from **Pagan Rome** during the first century A.D.'s "time of trouble such as never was" (as mentioned in Daniel 12:1f).

After that, this period would then continue. It would stretch down to and beyond Michael-Christ's deliverance of His Christian People first from **Pagan Rome** and then from **Papal Rome** and its modern ecumenical successors. Daniel 12:6-11 *cf.* Revelation 16:10-14.

For, **after** the period of **Papal Roman persecution**, there would be a **further** period of predicted **subsequent blessing**. Daniel 12:12. Indeed, that "blessed" period would in turn terminate only at Christ's

Second or Final Coming, a long time yet later, at Daniel's own physical resurrection at the very end of World History itself. Daniel 12:13 *cf.* Revelation 20:11f.⁸⁰

Calvin's specific condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his *Commentaries on Daniel* (12)

As Calvin states⁸¹ in his **1561 *Commentary on Daniel*** (12:1-4): "It was in no degree superfluous for the Angel to predict such great calamities as impending over **the Church**. And in **the present day**, the same expressions are most useful to **us**.... At the **present** time, in **the Papacy** and throughout the whole World [*cf.* Daniel 12:7-11] -- impiety prevails so extensively that there is scarcely a single corner in which the **majority** agree in true obedience to God.... **But...I do not hesitate to suppose that the Angel promised the arrival of a period** [*viz.* as a future fruit of **the ongoing Protestant Reformation**] -- when **God would collect many Disciples to Himself**... The Lord **will at length** cause **many** to embrace it to their own **salvation**."

Said one of the Angels to Christ: '**How long** shall it be to the **end** of these wonders?' Daniel 12:6. How long, O Lord?

Replied Christ Himself: "It shall be for a time, two times, and a half. But when he" (namely the persecuting **Roman** power of Daniel 12:1 & 12:7 *cf.* Rev. 12:6 & 12:14) "shall have **accomplished to scatter the power** of the **holy** People -- all these things shall be finished." Daniel 12:6-7.

This expression "a time" and "two times" and "a half" -- in the opinion of many commentators -- means: 3.5 **years-of-days** (alias **at least 1260 years**). Thus the *Alexandrine Septuagint Daniel* of 250 B.C. So too later, but still before the Protestant Reformation: Rashi; Pseudo-Joachim; Pierre Jean d'Olivi; John Wycliffe; and Walter Brute. Thus too, at the Protestant Reformation: Luther; Osiander; Calvin; Bullinger; Nigrinus; Chytraeus; and Napier. Also too, thereafter: King James (of *Authorized Version* fame); Downham; Pacard; Brightman; and further the *Dutch States-General Bible* commissioned by the 1618f Synod of Dort.⁸²

At Daniel 12:6-7, Calvin remarks:⁸³ "The passage [**to the end** of these wonders...shall be for a time, two times, and a half] -- ought to be understood of **that** pollution of the **Temple** which the Prophet has **already** treated [namely Daniel 9:26-27].... With reference to the doctrine here delivered, its meaning is very simple. 'Time' means **a long period**; 'times,' **a longer period**; and 'a half' means **the end or closing period**.

"The sum of the whole, is this:**many years** must elapse, before God fulfils what His Prophet had declared.... **I admit the allusion to years**.... The words are not to be understood literally, but metaphorically."

On Daniel 12:7, Calvin adds: "How sad is the dispersion of **the Church** -- in **these** days" [*viz.* A.D. 1561]. Yet "the Angel's prediction [in Daniel 12:7f] is not in vain.... **We**," concludes Calvin, "adopt the **interpretation**" of Daniel twelve's infallible Angel, the pre-incarnate **Lord Christ**, that although the power or "the hand of the holy People would be dispersed" -- nevertheless "the **end** shall be **prosperous**." For, as **Christ Himself** told Daniel: "**Blessed** is he who waits, and comes to the 1335 days!" Daniel 12:7-12.

We must insist that this was indeed the **explanation** of the **infallible** Pre-incarnate **Saviour**. Asked Daniel [12:8]: "O **my Lord**, **what** shall be the **end** of these things?" Replied **the Lord**: "The words are closed up and sealed **till** the time of the **end**." Daniel 12:9. Nevertheless: "**Blessed** is he who waits, and comes to the 1335 days!" Daniel 12:12.

Some have wrongly suggested this was said in respect of the desecration of the old sanctuary by the **Greek-Syrian** tyrant Antiochus Epiphanes in B.C. 168. However, that cannot be. For the context of Daniel 12:11 -- within the chapter Daniel 12:1-13 -- makes it quite clear that the entire passage is **post-incarnational** and therefore "**Roman**" (running from **Imperial-Roman** to **Papal-Roman** times).

Thus Dr. Calvin comments⁸⁴ on Daniel 12:11 that "at the end of the **ninth** chapter [Daniel 9:26f], I have shown the **impossibility** of **its** referring to the profanation of the temple which occurred under the tyranny of **Antiochus** [in BC 168]. On **that** occasion [in Daniel **9**:26f], the Angel bears witness to **such** a complete destruction of the temple -- as to leave **no** room for the hope of its repair and restoration....

"The circumstances of the time, convinces us of this. For he **then** said, Christ shall **confirm the Covenant** with many for one week **and** shall cause the sacrifices and oblation to **cease**.... The Angel therefore **there** treats of the **perpetual** devastation of the Temple.

"So, in **this** passage [Daniel chapter **12**:11], **without doubt**, he [the Angel] treats of the period **after** the **destruction** of the temple [by the **Romans**]. There **could** be **no hope** of restoration [after that], as the Law with all its **ceremonies** would **then** arrive at its **termination** [in A.D. 70].

"With this view, **Christ** quotes **this** passage [*viz.* Daniel 12:11] in Matthew 24 [v. 15], where He admonishes His hearers **diligently** to attend to it.... The time **now** treated...[*viz.* in Daniel 12:11], **begins** at the **last** destruction of the temple [in 70 AD]. That devastation happened as soon as the **Gospel** began to be promulgated [Matthew 24:14 *cf.* 28:19f]....

"I have **no hesitation** in referring this language [*viz.* of Daniel 12:11]...to that profanation of the temple which happened **after** the manifestation [or incarnation] of Christ -- when sacrifices ceased, and the shadows of the law were abolished.... The Jews never anticipated the final cessation of their ceremonies.... Their temple was exposed to the vengeance of the [**Roman**] Gentiles.

"**This**, therefore, was the setting up of **that** stupefying **abomination**." Thus explains that greatest of all commentators, John Calvin.

Daniel 12:7's 'three-and-a-half times' alias '42 months' alias '1260 days' alias 1260 days-of-years, then, only **starts** to operate some time **subsequently to** Christ's incarnation. Thus states Dr. Calvin. Far more importantly, thus states Daniel 7:9-14 *cf.* 7:19-25 too -- and also Revelation 11:2f & 12:6 & 12:14 & 13:1-5.

Now in Daniel 12:11, Christ made a very important statement. For there He told that Prophet: "From the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that desolates set up -- there shall be 1290 days." Clearly, these 1290 'days' are very unusual days.

Calvin comments: "I have no hesitation in supposing the Angel to speak **metaphorically**.... The Angel, then, purposely put 'days' for **years**.... That time may seem **immeasurably prolonged**.... Yet it must be **endured**....

"**Then**, he adds: **Happy** is he who shall have waited and endured until the 1335 days!" [Daniel 12:12].... The 'days' should be understood as **years**.... Yet the faithful ought **constantly** to **persist** -- in the **hope** of **deliverance**!"

Similarly, in his remarks on Matthew 24:15's reference to 'the abomination of desolation **spoken of by Daniel the Prophet**' -- Calvin refers back to Daniel 12:11-12. There, in his *Commentary on a Harmony of the Evangelists*, Calvin states:⁸⁵

"The **calamity of the Church** shall last through **a time, times, and half a time** (Daniel 7:25).... But now [in Daniel 12:7-12], He reckons the period of three years and six months by '**days**' -- so that the believers may be more and more hardened by **a very long continuance** of calamities....

"It is customary with men in adversity to compute time not by **years** or months but by 'days' -- **a single 'day' being** in their estimate **equal to a year**. He says [*cf.* Daniel 12:12] that those will be **happy**, who bear up to the **end of that period**."

Clearly, then -- Calvin was at least incipiently an Optimistic Postmillennialist. After **many years** (note **many** years), he believed the Church would attain a very "**happy**" condition -- **before** the end of World History.

Too, following Calvin, also the *Geneva Bible* (written by John Calvin's wife's brother-in-law Rev. Dr. William Whittingham and co-written by Calvin's great student John Knox) agrees. For it there rightly comments that all these many 'wonders' would not end for "**a long time, a longer time, and at length**" -- signifying "that **the time shall be long**."⁸⁶

The Calvinistic interpretation of the Papacy in Daniel twelve as seen from Church History

It would thus be many centuries after Calvary before the Lord Christ's Christ-ian People would achieve considerable 'cultural clout.' And only after that, would they later christ-ianize the World. Before that happy time, however -- God deemed it necessary first "to scatter the power of the Holy People." Daniel 12:7

This 'scattering' was first accomplished in the flight of the Hebrew Christians from Jerusalem some 3.5 years after Calvary, commencing right after the death of Stephen as the very first Christian martyr at the end of Daniel's seventieth week. Cf. Daniel 9:24-27 & Acts chapter 7 cf. 8:1-4f.

This was accomplished further again by the subsequent 'scattering' of the remainder of the Hebrew Christians in 66.5 A.D., just before the **abomination** of desolation was set up and the daily sacrifice taken away. For then, the Roman armies -- with their 'unclean' eagle standards -- besieged and destroyed Jerusalem and its temple in 66.5 to 70 A.D. "Wherever the [Judaic] carcass is, there will the [Roman] eagles be gathered together." Matthew 24:28.

Yet this ongoing 'scattering' was accomplished also especially from the Early-Mediaeval period onward. For it was then that the Papal-Roman Church started to 'scatter' the truly-Christian and Bible-believing saints of Jesus -- and to defile the sanctuary of Christ's deforming Visible Church with the **abomination** of the daily Romish Mass. Cf. Revelation chapters 11 to 13.

Very well does chapter 29 of the famous 1647 Calvin-istic *Westminster Confession of Faith* insist that "the **popish sacrifice of the Mass**, as they [*viz.* the Romanists] call it, is most **abominably** injurious to Christ's one and only sacrifice, the alone propitiation for all the sins of the elect." Daniel 9:24-27a *versus* 9:26b & 9:27b -- and cf. Daniel 12:1-2 *versus* 13:7 & 12:11. For the Papal-Romish **Mass**, "commonly called **transubstantiation**..., is **repugnant** not to Scripture alone, but even to common sense and reason...; and hath been and is the cause of manifold **superstitions** -- **yea, of gross idolatries**."

On Daniel 12:4, Calvin comments: "At the **present** time [*viz.* 1561], in the **Papacy** and throughout the whole World, **impiety prevails** so extensively.... **But I do not hesitate** to suppose the **Angel** to **promise** the **arrival** of a **period** when God **would** collect **many Disciples** to Himself."

For in the yet-future: "**Many** shall investigate...and **knowledge** shall be **increased**.... **Many** shall be **purified**..., and the wise shall **understand**.... **Blessed** is he who waits, and comes to the 1335 days!" Daniel 12:4,10,12.

That blessed time, however, was still in the far-distant future -- **beyond** the age of the Protestant Reformation. Thus Calvin also had to admit, that "**many**" and "**blessed**" as Christians one day **will** be in the middle and especially at the end of such a future period -- "at the **beginning**, they would be very few and insignificant."

Nevertheless, in God's good time, the daily **abomination** of the Romish Mass shall be **removed** from Christ's deformed Visible Church. In the words of Daniel 12:11-12f, **see'eeth** or "**from the time** [70 A.D.] that the [Judaistic] daily sacrifice shall be taken away, **and** [from the time] the [Roman] abomination

that desolates be set up [especially as the Papal Mass in the Middle Ages], there shall be 1290 days. **Blessed** is he who waits and comes to the **1335** days" or years!

So then, it is only from **after** the time of the commencement of these Daniel 12:1-7 events, that the "3.5 times" alias the 1260 years would even **begin** to run. Indeed, this time-frame -- 1260 years -- would even be **lengthened**. For it would consist of two periods -- one of 1290 "days" (meaning day-years), and the other of 1335 "days" (meaning day-years).

For very many authorities conclude that these 1290 and 1335 "days" actually represent 1290 and 1335 **years**. Indeed, they also believe the previous "time and two times and half-a-time" alias 3.5 years alias 1260 days, similarly represent 1260 **years**.

Calvin himself is one such authority. Thus, he comments that Michael-Christ the Angel as God's Messenger here "purposely puts 'days' for **years**."

There have also been many learned Judaists who equate the 1290 and 1335 'days' in Daniel 12:1f with actual **years**. Such include: Benyamin Nahawendi; Saadia; Solomon ben Jehoram; Sahl ben Mazliah Hakohen; Rashi; Abraham bar Hiyya Hanasi; Tobiah ben Eliezer; Halevi; Nachmanides; Bahya ben Asher; Levi Gersonides; Menahem ben Aaron ben Zerah; Simon ben Zemah Duran; Abravanel; Abraham Halevi ben Eliezer; Daniel ben Perahiah; Naphtali Herz ben Jacob El-hanan; and Mordecai ben Judah Dato.

Christian Scholars who do the same, include: Martin Luther; Melancthon; Funck; Calvin; Nigrinus; Napier; Downham; the *Dutch States Bible* commissioned by the 1618 Synod of Dordt; Parker; Tillinghast; Matthew Poole; Lowth; Cotton Mather; Matthew Henry; Fletcher; Thomas Newton; Petri; John Brown of Haddington; Hopkins; Winthrop; Hales; Thomas Scott; Cunninghame; Adam Clarke; Bickersteth; Gauszen; and many others. Furthermore: Matthew Henry, Thomas Newton, John Brown, Hopkins, Thomas Scott and Adam Clarke all believed that the "blessed" end of the 1335 day-years -- would bring in **(post)millennial blessings**.

Dr. John Calvin rightly comments⁸⁷ (on Dan. 12:12): "Some think the [1290 and the 1335] 'days' should be understood as **years** -- and...make the number of years 2600 [if not 2625]. The time which elapsed from this prophecy to the [First] Advent of Christ, was about 600 years. From this advent, 2000 [or perhaps even 2025] years remain.... They think this [A.D. 2000 to 2025] is the assigned period until the end of the World....

"But they are **quite wrong** in separating the 1290 days from the 1335," explains Dr. Calvin. "For they clearly refer to the same period -- with a slight exception" of their last 45 years. "It is as if the Angel had said...the faithful ought constantly to persist in the **hope** of deliverance."

Indeed, starting in 70 A.D., the 1290 'years' terminate at **John Wycliffe** -- the 'Morning Star of the Reformation' -- in 1360f. He it was who then: exalted the Bible; condemned the Papacy; and blasted transubstantiation at the Romish Mass as an abomination (Daniel 12:7-11).

Again starting in 70 A.D., the 1335 'years' in Daniel 12:12 take one up to 1405f and the Wycliffite **John Huss**. He was the good 'goose' who inspired the swift 'swan' **Martin Luther** -- to begin the Protestant Reformation just a century later.

The Bohemian name 'Huss' means 'goose.' In 1415, the martyr John Huss predicted against Rome: "They will roast a 'goose' now -- but, after a hundred years, they will hear a 'swan' sing!"

Precisely as predicted by Huss, in the next century the 'swan' indeed did start singing. Referring to "the Hussites and Wycliffes," Luther remarked: "St. John Huss prophesied about me!"

Only at the end of the period of the 1335 'years' would a new period of **earthly blessedness** begin to arrive -- the **ever-expanding** and still-ongoing **Protestant Reformation**. Thus authorities such as: John Gill; Matthew Henry; Bishop Thomas Newton; John Brown of Haddington; Samuel Hopkins; Thomas Scott; Adam Clarke; and many others down through the centuries, right down till our own times.

This apparently means till Huss's years of A.D. 70 plus 1335 years = A.D. 1405*f*. For, as mighty Michael-Christ Himself told Daniel (12:12): "**Blessed** is he who waits, and comes to the 1335 days [or ' dayyears']!"

Wrote the Calvin-istic Baptist Rev. Dr. Gill on Daniel 12:4*f* in his celebrated *Exposition of the Old Testament*: "Toward the **end** of the time appointed, many persons will be stirred up to inquire into these things delivered in this book.... Knowledge of all spiritual things, of all evangelic truths and doctrines, will be abundantly enlarged at this time.... The Earth will be[come] filled and covered with it, as the sea with its waters. See Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:19..."

"Christ, as man, swears by His Divine Father... that it shall be for a time, times, and an half [Daniel 12:7]... The troubles of the Church would last so long..."

"At the end of that date here fixed, a glorious scene would open and amazing things appear -- to the great joy and comfort of the saints." Yet first, there would be a time of trouble.

How long would that ' time of trouble' last? Explains Gill: "' Time' signifies a prophetic year, or 360 years; and ' times' two prophetic years, or 720 years; and ' half' a time, half a prophetic year or 180 years in all, 1260 years.

"This is the exact date and duration of the reign of [**the Romish**] **Antichrist**; of the Church' s being in the wilderness...; and of the treading under foot [of] the holy city.... ' When he shall have done scattering' the Church and People of God in general..., his war with the saints and victories over them will be ended.... Then all the afflictions of the Church will be at an end, and glorious times will succeed...: the spiritual reign of Christ...and the Millennium, in their order..."

"The doctrine of atonement and satisfaction for sin by the sacrifice of Christ" would attemptedly be "taken away by **Antichrist**.... He establishes the doctrine of works, and opposes the merits of men to the merits of Christ" by means of the papalistic Antichrist' s 'own pardons, indulgences, penances and...image worship, the 'abomination' of **the Mass**, and other acts of idolatry and superstition [*cf.* Daniel 12:11].

"' There shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.' From the beginning of the reign of Antichrist to the end of it, are 1260 days or years.... Here, 30 days or years are added."

Next, explains Gill, comes the further statement: "' Blessed is he that wait, and comes to the 1335 days' [Daniel 12:13] This is an addition of 45 days or years more, beginning at the end of [the] 1290.... During this time -- the vials will be poured out upon all the antichristian states; and the Turkish empire be destroyed; and all the enemies of Christ and His Church removed..."

"Mede thinks...the first number, 1290, ended...when Antichrist was come to his height." That then occurred "when the Waldenses...and others separated from the Church of Rome as Antichrist..."

"Another learned man [Dr. Henry Wolphius] was of opinion that these numbers are to be counted from the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus Vespasian, A.D. 71. >From whence the first number fell on the year 1361 -- at which time [**John Wycliffe** rose up and] the school at Prague was founded [by Wycliffe' s follower Jerome]...and the errors and tyranny of Antichrist began to be opposed openly by the same.... The second number [1335] ended in the year 1406, when the light of the Gospel broke out more clearly [*viz.* under Wycliffe' s follower Jan Huss]; so that the Angel here pronounces those blessed who overlived these first seeds of the Gospel being brought to light..."

"Something of great importance and cause of more joy is here intended," concludes Gill. "It seems best to interpret these numbers, as at first, of the date of the reign of Antichrist, and as showing the full and certain end of it; when[ce-forth] there will be blessed times, halcyon days indeed!"

Also the Calvin-istic Anglican Scholar Thomas Scott remarked on Daniel 12:1-13 in his famous *Commentary on the Bible*: "We understand ' the time of trouble' [in Daniel 12:1] to include all the Jews have

suffered -- from their crucifixion of Christ to the present day, and all that yet remains for them to suffer till their conversion to Christ [*cf.* Romans 11:12-15 & 11:25-32].... The expression of 'running to and fro' [Daniel 12:4], may refer to the future spread of the Gospel by the active labours of faithful Ministers....

"The Jews then ceased to be the holy People [Daniel 12:7f].... The **anti-christian usurpers** [within the Church of Rome] began to 'scatter the power' of True Christians by false doctrine, persecutions, massacres, and religions wars.... The imposture of Mohamet and the **papal usurpation** began about the same time [A.D. 600f].... We may allow both to be included, as a twofold attack upon the Church....

"The 'taking away of the daily sacrifice' and 'the abomination that makes desolate' [in Daniel 12:11], seem to be expressions applied to various **different** events of a similar nature.... The Romans destroyed the temple.... But they [these words] are here evidently applied to the establishment of idolatry and persecution **within the Church**, by the tyranny of Antichrist [*viz.* Rome's Papacy and the abomination of the Romish Mass]....

"But then a great and glorious revolution will follow.... Perhaps **the destruction of Antichrist**.... But **another** still greater, and **more glorious**, will **succeed**....

"What can this be so probably, as **the full conversion of the Gentiles to the Church of Christ** [*cf.* Romans 11:25f and Revelation 11:15 & 15:4] and the beginning of the millennium [Revelation 20:1-6].... The Prophet Daniel and the Apostle John in Revelation spake of the same transactions....

"Let us not then be weary of well-doing, 'for in due season we shall reap -- if we faint not' [says St. Paul in Galatians 6:9].... May the Lord send forth many **Preach-ers**, 'who may run to and fro' all over the Earth [Daniel 12:4], to guide those who sit in darkness into the ways of truth.... Glorious times approach. **Happy** will they be, who live to see them!" Daniel 12:12.

So then, it is Christ's **powerfully-preached Word** -- as it went forth in the Protestant Reformation -- that **ultimately shall overthrow the Romish Anti-christ** and its abominable Mass (as well as all of Rome's various by-products such as Islam, Socialism, Ecumenism and Humanism). Revelation 16:10-19f *cf.* Second Thessalonians 3:3-8 & 3:1. And each day -- together with 'Give us this day our daily bread!' -- we must also pray: 'Thy Kingdom come!'

The latter means, according to the Calvin-istic *Westminster Larger Catechism* (191), that we are to pray "the Lord's prayer" for His Disciples each day. Thus, whenever we eat our daily bread, we are also to pray "that the kingdom of sin and Satan may be destroyed; **the Gospel propagated throughout the World**; the Jews called, the fulness of the Gentiles brought in; and **the Church** furnished with all Gospel-Officers and Ordinances [and] **purged from corruption.**"

Indeed, **the Papacy** itself is at the very heart of that corruption. Thus the Calvin-istic *Westminster Confession of Faith* (25:6) insists: "**The Pope of Rome**...is that **Antichrist**, that man of sin and son of perdition that exalteth himself **in the Church** [!] against Christ."

That is why we need to pray daily that the De-form-ed Church of Rome may yet be **cleansed** and become re-transformed into the 'sanctuary' of God as a Re-form-ed alias a Protestant Church. It also means, by implication, that De-form-ed 'Protestant' Churches are also to be cleansed. In one word -- all Churches need to become **Reformed Presbyterian Churches!**

Meantime, as the 1560 Calvin-istic *Geneva Bible* comments (on Daniel 12:12f): "They are blessed who **patiently abide**" -- who thus keep on serving Christ, throughout this long time of increasing blessing from the end of the 1335 years and until the Resurrection of all flesh at the end of World History. Hence, Daniel himself was told in conclusion that "he would depart this life -- but **rise again** with the elect **when God had** sufficiently **purged** His Church" and **blessed** her. For indeed, "**blessed** is he who waits." Daniel 12:12.

As Calvin himself prays at the ends of the Sixty-First Lecture in his 1561 A.D. *Commentaries on the Book of the Prophet Daniel*: "Grant, Almighty God, as at this day You try the faith of Your People by many tests -- that they may obtain strength from the **unconquered fortitude** of Your Holy Spirit! May we **constantly march** under Your standard, even **to the end** -- and **never succumb** to any temptation!

"May we there join intelligence with zeal, in **building up** Your Church! As each of us is endowed with superior gifts -- so may he strive for the **edification** of his brethren with greater...fervour while he endeavours to **add numbers** to the cause! And should the number of those who are professed Members of Your Church diminish -- yet may some **seed always remain, until abundant produce shall flow forth from it**, and **such fruitfulness arise** as shall **cause Your Name to be glorified throughout the whole World** in Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen!"

Meantime, concluded Christ: "Go on your way" -- Daniel, old man! You will soon be buried in your lot -- and rest in peace "till the end.... You shall keep on resting. But you **shall** stand up, in your lot, at the **end** of the days!" Daniel 12:13. For also Daniel will one day be resurrected.

Comments Calvin:⁸⁸ "The Angel does...seem to me...to announce **future** events -- as if He had said, 'You shall rest!' Meaning -- 'You shall die; but then you shall stand up!' Meaning -- 'Your death shall not be complete destruction; for God shall cause you to stand [up again], in your lot, with the rest of the elect!'; 'and that, too, at the end of the days, in your lot' [Daniel 12:13]. That is, **after** God has sufficiently proved the patience of His people, and by **long**...contests has humbled His Church and **purged** it until the end shall arrive."

Calvin's condemnations of the Romish Papacy from his Commentary on Hosea

In Calvin's 1557 *Commentaries on the Twelve Minor Prophets* he has much to say about the Papal Church. Nowhere is he there more copious, than in his exposition of Hosea.

In Hosea 2:2, and apparently referred to the Israelitic Church, God told that Prophet: "Plead for your '**mother**' -- for she is **not My** wife!"

Comments Calvin:⁸⁹ "'What, has God not bound His Faith to us? Is not the Church His spouse? Can He be unfaithful?' So say **the Papists!**

"But at the same time, they do not consider that their '**mother**' has become **utterly filthy** through her many abominations. They do not consider that she has been repudiated -- because the Lord could no longer bear her great wickedness."

In Hosea 2:5, God told that Prophet regarding the Israelites: "Their '**mother**' has played the harlot. She who conceived them, has acted shamefully."

Comments Calvin:⁹⁰ "'To God, all **the Papists** are **bastards**. In vain, then, they boast themselves to be children of God and that they have the holy '**Mother**' Church. For they are born by **filthy wantonness**."

In Hosea 2:17, God told that Prophet regarding the Israelites: "I will take away the names of *Baalim* [alias **false-gods** and **idols** or **images of them**] from out of her mouth." That seems *inter alia* to predict also the Protestant Reformation -- which thereby removed the *Baal*-like idols from a large part of the deformed Church of Rome.

Comments Calvin:⁹¹ "The Jews...had their *Baalim*.... Yet they gave this name, to God. 'Let us worship *Baalim!*' **The Papists** do the same. When they enter their temples, they immediately turn to the image of Mary or some saint, and dare not come to God. At the same time, they [say they] 'worship' God -- that is, **pretend** to worship God, and call **superstition** 'the worship of God.'

“So it was among **the Israelites** [in Hosea’s days]! Though the majesty of the Supreme God was not denied, yet that happened which also **the Papists** say – ‘That Christ is not distinguished from His Apostles.’ All things were with them mixed together, and confused.”

In Hosea 4:12f, God told that Prophet regarding **Israelites**: “My people ask counsel at their stocks [alias their wooden idols]... They have gone a-whoring [away] from under their God.”

Comments Calvin:⁹² “The same thing that the Prophet brought against the Israelites, may be brought also against **the Papists**. For as soon as infants are born among them, the Lord signs them with the sacred symbol of Baptism. They are therefore in some sense the people of God.

“We see, at the same time, how gross and abominable are the superstitions which prevail among them. There are none more stupid than they are. Even the Turks and the Saracens are wise, when compared with them. How great, then, and how shameful is this baseness – that **the Papists**, who boast themselves to be the people of God, should go astray after their own **mad follies**....

“Baptism, then, affords **the Papists no excuse**; but on the contrary, renders double their sin! For they have, by a profane audacity, contaminated what the Son of God has appointed. But there is in their Mass a **much greater abomination**. For the Mass, as we know, is in no respect the same with the Holy Supper of our Lord.

“There are at least some things remaining in Baptism. But the Mass is nothing like Christ’s Holy Supper.... **Extreme infamy**...belongs to **the Mass**.”

In Hosea 8:14, God told that Prophet regarding the Old Testament Church: “Israel has forgotten his Maker -- but keeps on building temples!” Comments Calvin:⁹³ “The case is the same at this day, when we blame **the Papists** for their idols. Their excuse is this, that what they set forth in pictures and statues is the image of God; and that images, as they say, are the ‘books’ of the illiterate. But what does the Prophet answer here? That ‘Israel **forgot** his Maker!’”

In Hosea 9:17, that Prophet said regarding the disobedient Members of the Old Testament Church: “My God will cast them away because they did not hearken to Him.” Comments Calvin:⁹⁴ “At this day, we may safely take the Name of God -- in opposition to **the Papists**. For they have nothing in common with the true God, since they have polluted themselves with so many abominations.”

In Hosea 10:8, that man of God prophesied: “The high-places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed.” Applied also to the New Testament Church, this seems to be a prediction also of the deformation of a large part of the Church by Romanism.

Comments Dr. Calvin:⁹⁵ “We see **the Papists** doing so at this day. For they adorn that profanation, **the Mass**, with the title of ‘Sacrament’ -- as if it was something allied to it. They wish even their own **Mass** to be regarded as the Holy Supper -- as if it were in their power to abolish what has been prescribed by the Son of God and to substitute in its place their own inventions. Hence, howsoever much **the Papists** may dignify their profanations with honourable names -- they effect nothing.”

In Hosea 13:2, that man of God prophesied sarcastically of those who merely claim to be believers: “Let the men that sacrifice, kiss the calves!” Comments Calvin:⁹⁶ “This practice, we see, has been retained by the superstitious -- as the case is at this day with **the Papists**, who observe this special custom of kissing their idols.... The Prophet now shows how stupid the Israelites were, and how prodigious was their frenzy when they kissed the calves with great reverence!”

Calvin’s condemnations of the Papacy from his Commentaries on Joel, Amos and Jonah

On Joel 3:17, Calvin comments: “We see at this day...[that] **Antichrist**, as it has been foretold, has now for ages exercised dominion in God’s sanctuary. Since it is so, we ought to mourn at seeing **God’s Holy**

Church profaned. Let us yet know, that God will take care to gather His elect, and to cleanse them from every pollution and defilement” -- especially at the Protestant Reformation!

Indeed, also at Amos 3:8, Calvin comments: “At this day **the Papists**...blend profane with sacred things, when they prostitute their **Masses**, and also when they trifle with God in their ceremonies. It is certain that whatever **the Papists** do, is an abomination; for the whole of religion with them is adulterated.”⁹⁷

On Jonah 1:15f, it is recorded that after unbelievers grabbed that Prophet and threw him into the sea -- they feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord. Calvin comments:⁹⁸ “**The Papists** hold this truth in common with us -- that there is one true God, the Framer of Heaven and Earth. Yes, they come still nearer -- and say that the only-begotten Son of God is our Redeemer. But yet we see how they contaminate the whole worship of God, and turn His truth into a lie. For they blend the worship of God with that of **idols**, so that there is nothing pure among them.... The whole religion under **the Papacy** must be **perverted** -- as they pray not only to God, but even to creatures.”

Calvin’s condemnations of the Papacy from his *Commentaries on Micah and Zephaniah*

Calvin comments on Micah 1:3f:⁹⁹ “We find **the Papists** boasting of the title ‘Church’ – and, in a manner, with vain confidence binding God to themselves because they have Baptism, though they have adulterated it with their superstitions. And they think that they have Christ, because they still retain the name of a ‘Church.’

“Had the Lord promised that His dwelling would be in **Rome**, we yet see how foolish and frivolous such boasting would be! For though the temple was at **Jerusalem**, yet the Lord went forth thence to punish the sins of the people – yes, even of the chosen people.

We further know that it is folly to bind God now to one place. For it is His will that His Name should be celebrated, without any difference, through[out] the whole World [*cf.* Malachi 1:11]. Wheresoever, then, the Voice of the Gospel sounds -- God would have us to know that He is present there.

“What **the Papists** then proudly boast of -- that Christ is joined to them -- will turn out to their own condemnation. Why so? Because the Lord will prove that He is the avenger of so impious and shameful a profanation -- as they not only presumptuously lay claim to His Name, but also tear it in pieces and contaminate it with their sacrilegious abominations.”

In Zephaniah 1:4f, the Lord through that Prophet remarks: “I will stretch out My hand upon **Judah**, and upon Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of **Baal** from this place; and the name of the *Chemarims*, with the **priests**; and them that worship the host of Heaven [alias the stars]; and them that worship and swear by **the Lord** and that swear by **Malcham**” the idol of the Ammonites.

Comments Dr. Calvin:¹⁰⁰ “The Jews...then, did not openly reject the worship of the true God but formed such a mixture for themselves that they joined their own idols to the true God -- as we see to be the state of things at this day under **the Papacy**. It seems a sufficient excuse to foolish men that they retain the Name of God. And they confidently boast that the true God is worshipped by them. And yet, we see that they mix together with this worship many of the delusions of Satan. For under **the Papacy**, there is no end to their inventions....

“We hence learn how greatly deceived **the Papists** are -- who think it enough provided they depart not wholly from the worship of the only true God.” However, “God allows and approves of no worship except when we attend to His Voice and turn not aside either to the left hand or to the right but acquiesce only in what He has prescribed.”

Calvin's condemnations of the Papacy from his Commentaries on Zechariah and Malachi

On Zechariah 3:6f, Dr. Calvin comments:¹⁰¹ “We hence see how foolish and even abominable is the arrogance of the Pope who, being content with a naked title, seeks to reduce the whole World to himself -- as if God had given up His Own right.... Hence **the Pope**, with all his adherents....seeks to rule in a profane and tyrannical manner, and according to his own pleasure.”

In Zechariah 10:2f, God says through that Prophet that “the idols have spoken vanity -- and the diviners have seen a lie and have told false-dreams.... My anger was kindled **against** the [false] shepherds!”

Dr. John Calvin comments:¹⁰² “Here **the Papists** betray their folly. They lay hold only of words, and claim to themselves all power -- because they are called ‘pastors’ in **the Church**.... As though **Antichrist** was not to **reign** in **the Temple of God!**”

In Zechariah 11:16f, God says: “I will raise up a [false] **shepherd**...which shall not visit those that be cut off...nor heal that which has been broken nor feed that which is stagnant; but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear...into pieces.... Woe to the **idol shepherd** who leaves the flock! ... His right eye shall be darkened utterly” – as shall befall the Papacy as a result of powerful preaching by Protestant Ministers! Here Dr. John Calvin comments:¹⁰³ “**The Papists**...proudly make a boasting of this kind -- ‘The Church is never forsaken by God!’ Though the truth of God had long ago been buried completely, they yet hold that it is still the true Church – a ‘Church’ filled with impious superstitions!

“As then **the Papists** glory in title only, and are content with it -- so the Jews, we know, boasted of their privileges.... As then the Jews made use of these foolish boastings against the Apostles, so also at this day **the Papists** hide all infamy under the title of **Church**. The same thing, Zechariah here means by saying that he by God’s command ‘took the instrument of a **foolish shepherd**’

“**We also** at this day concede sometimes the name of ‘**Church**’ to **the Papists**.... We see at this day how the mitred bishops and abbots and their whole company by their delusive splendour dazzle the eyes of most men. They believe that **the Pope** is the Vicar of God; and the rest, the successors of the Apostles.

“But the Prophet here testifies that when the ripened time shall come, their shameful conduct shall be made evident -- so that all shall treat them with contempt and they shall become an abomination to all.” Indeed, **Protestantism** shall yet triumph over **Romanism** -- everywhere in the World!

In Malachi 1:11, God predicts through that Prophet: “From the rising of the sun [in the East] even unto its going down [in the West], My Name shall be great among the nations.... In every place, incense [meaning prayer] shall be offered unto My Name.... For My Name shall be great among the nations.”

Here, Rev. Dr. John Calvin comments:¹⁰⁴ “Here God shows...He would...be worshipped purely -- by all nations.... For the doctrine of salvation would be propagated to the utmost extremities of the Earth.... The Gentiles would become holy to God, because He would adopt them.... The Law which had been given to the Jews, would be proclaimed among all nations -- so that true religion might spread everywhere.... The whole World would come to the Faith and True Religion....

“The words of the Prophet are metaphorical, yet their meaning is plain enough.... God will be worshipped and adored everywhere...[by] prayers and thanksgivings, according to what the Apostle says in the last chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews....

“The **time would come**, when the pure and spiritual worship of God would prevail in **all** places.... How absurd are **the Papists** -- when they hence infer that God cannot be worshipped without some kind of **sacrifice**. And on this ground, they defend the impiety of their **Mass!**”

Finally, on Malachi 2:4f, Dr. Calvin comments:¹⁰⁵ “How have such great impieties arisen under **the Papacy** -- except that pastors have exercised tyranny and not just government? For they have not had regard to the purpose for which they have been called into their office....

“At this day, when **we resist the papal priests**, we do not violate God’s Covenant.... Therefore we boldly attempt to subvert the whole of **the Papacy**.... God does not violate His Covenant, when he freely **rebukes the priests** and exposes also their **false** attempts in absurdly applying to themselves the Covenant of God -- **like the papal priests at this day who say that they are the Church!**

“How? Because they have, in a regular order, succeeded the Apostles? But this is a foolish and ridiculous definition! For he who occupies the place of another, ought not only on that account to be deemed a successor. Were a thief to kill the master of a family and to occupy his place and to take possession of all his goods -- is he to be accounted his legitimate successor?”

“So these dishonest men [*viz.* the papal priests], to show that they are to be regarded as ‘Apostles’ -- only allege a continued course of succession. But the likeness between them [and true servants of God], ought rather to be the subject of inquiry!”

Calvin’s condemnations of the Papacy from his *Harmony of the Evangelists*

We now come to the Newer Testament. In his comments from his *Harmony of the Evangelists Matthew, Mark and Luke* -- Dr. Calvin’s condemnation of the Papacy is even stronger. Here, we give only the more prominent of such statements.

In Luke 1:16, that Holy Writer says of John the baptizer: “Many of the children of Israel; shall he bring back.” Here, Dr. Calvin comments:¹⁰⁶ “These words show the shamefully dissolute conduct which then prevailed **in the Church**. For those in whom conversion to God could take place, must have been **apostates**....

“But if the ancient Church [in the days of John and Christ] was so awfully dissolute, it is a frivolous pretext by which **the Papists** defend their own superstitions that it is impossible for the Church to err. Particularly since they include under this designation not the genuine and elect children of God but the crowd of the ungodly.”

In Matthew 3:7, John calls many of the Pharisees and Sadducees the “offspring of **vipers.**” Here Calvin comments:¹⁰⁷ “If you compare **the Pope** and his abominable clergy with the Pharisees and Sadducees, the mildest possible way of dealing with them will be to throw them all into one bundle. Those whose ears are so delicate that they cannot endure to have any bitter thing said against **the Pope**, must argue not with us but with the Spirit of God!”

In Luke 4:16, it says that Jesus went into the synagogue, “and rose up to read” from Isaiah chapter 61. Here Calvin comments:¹⁰⁸ “This passage will be sufficient to prove clearly that the corruptions of **the Papal Hierarchy** in our own time, are **more shocking and detestable** than those which existed among the Jews under the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas. For the reading of Scripture which was then in use, has not only grown obsolete under **the Pope** but is driven [away] from the churches by fire and sword.”

In Matthew 15:3, Jesus asks the Pharisees: “Why do you...transgress the Commandment of God on account of your tradition?” Here Calvin comments:¹⁰⁹ “Let any man now consider whether this wickedness does not at present abound more among **the Papists** than it formerly did among the Jews.

“It is not indeed denied by **the Pope** or by the whole of his filthy clergy [nor was it by the Jews] that we ought to obey God. But when we come to the point, we find that they consider the act of eating a morsel of meat as nothing less than a capital crime -- while theft or fornication is regarded as a venial fault. And thus, on account of their traditions, they overturn the Law of God.”

In Matthew 16:6, Jesus warns His Disciples: “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees!” Here Dr. John Calvin comments:¹¹⁰ “In our own day, we find that not only from **Popish Temples** and from the dens of sophists and monks does **Antichrist** vomit out her impostures -- but that

there is a 'Theology of the Court' which lends its aid to prop up **the throne of Antichrist**.... Sooner shall water mix with fire -- than any man shall succeed in reconciling the inventions of **the Pope** with the Gospel!"

On Matthew 16:18f, Calvin comments:¹¹¹ "**The Roman Antichrist**, wishing to cloak his **tyranny**, has wickedly and dishonestly dared to pervert the whole of this passage.... First, **he alleges** that **Peter** is declared to be the foundation of the Church. But who does not see that what he applies to the person of a man, is said in reference to Peter's faith in **Christ**? ...

"The gender of the noun was intentionally changed [from *petros* alias a pebble to *Petra* alias Rock] -- to show that in the latter clause, He was now speaking of something totally different from the person of Peter. A distinction of the same sort, I have no doubt, was pointed out by Christ in His Own language [Aramaic]....

"Therefore [St.] **Augustine** judiciously reminds the reader that it is not *Petra* [a huge Rock] that is derived from *petros* [a little pebble] -- but *Petros* (Peter) that is derived from *Petra* [the huge Rock Jesus Christ the Lord].... **The Church** can have no other Foundation, than **Christ alone**. First Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20." Indeed, see too the **Apostle Peter's** own infallible interpretation in First Peter 2:3-8!

Continues John Calvin: "It can be nothing less than blasphemy and sacrilege, when **the Pope** has contrived another foundation. And certainly, no words can express the detestation with which we ought to regard the tyranny of the papal system.... In order to maintain it, the Foundation of the Church has been subverted -- so that the mouth of hell might be opened and swallow up wretched souls....

"We conclude that nothing is here said to Peter, which does not apply equally to the others who were his companions.... It is a foolish inference of **the Papists**, that he received the primacy and became the Universal Head of the whole Church.... That vast dominion which **the Papists** claim for him, falls to the ground....

"No man in his senses will admit the principle which **the Papists** take for granted -- that what is here granted to Peter, was intended to be transmitted by him to posterity by hereditary right. For he does not receive permission to give anything to his successors.... [Even] if the uninterrupted succession were fully established, still **the Pope** will gain nothing by it till he has proved himself to be Peter's lawful successor.

"And how does he prove it? Because 'Peter died at Rome!' As if Rome, by the detestable murder of the Apostle, had procured for herself the primacy! But they allege -- that he was also bishop there. How false and frivolous that allegation is, I have made abundantly evident in my *Institutes* (Book IV chapter 6)....

"Yet I would add a few words. Though the Bishop of Rome had been the lawful successor of Peter -- since by his own treachery he has deprived himself of so high an honour, all that Christ [would have] bestow(ed) upon the successors of Peter avails him nothing.... Certainly, if it were true that Christ had left nothing undone to exalt the heirs of Peter -- still, He was not so lavish as to part with His Own honour [in order] to bestow it on apostates!"

In Matthew 24:15-28, Jesus warned His Disciples: "When therefore you shall see the abomination of desolation which is described by Daniel the Prophet standing in the holy place, let him who reads understand! ... If anyone shall then say to you, 'Look, here or there is Christ!' -- don't believe it! For false-Christs and false-prophets shall arise, and shall perform great 'signs' and 'wonders' so that even the elect (if it were possible) will be led into error.... Wherever the carcass is, there will also the eagles [or vultures] be gathered together."

Here, Calvin comments:¹¹² "Those commentators are I think mistaken, who think that this quotation is made from the ninth chapter of the Book of Daniel.... In the twelfth chapter, the Angel predicts what is called the final abrogation...which was to take place at the coming of Christ.... 'From the time,' says he, 'that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away and **the abomination of desolation** set up, there will be 1290 days. Blessed is he who shall wait till he comes to the 1335 days!' Daniel 12:11-12....

“Our Lord declares that ‘**antichrists**’ and ‘**false-prophets**’ would be armed with ‘miracles.’ There is no reason why **the Papists** should talk so haughtily on this ground; or why we should be terrified by their boasting. In support of their superstitions, they plead miracles -- those very ‘**miracles**’ that the Son of God predicted would **corrupt** the faith of many....

“Christ does not restrict us either to the primacy of the Roman See or to any other foolery.... Let **the adherents of Rome** now go and exclaim that all are **schismatics** who...allow themselves to be separated from Christ so that they may transfer their allegiance to a robber” -- viz. the Romans, cf. in Daniel 11:14-45 & 12:7-12.

“When **the Papists** interpret the word ‘carcase’...it is **excessively absurd**. For Christ manifestly had no other design than to call into Himself the children of God, and to retain them in union to Him wherever they were scattered.”

Finally, on Christ’s Great Commission at Mark 16:16 and Matthew 28:20, Dr. Calvin comments:¹¹³ “**Miracles** were promised only for a time -- in order to give lustre to the Gospel while it was new and in a state of obscurity.... Certainly, we see that the use of them ceased -- not long afterwards....

“Yet, those who came after them -- so that they might not allow it to be supposed that they were entirely destitute of miracles -- were led by foolish avarice or ambition to **forge** for themselves ‘miracles’ which had no reality. Thus was the door opened for the impostures of Satan -- not only so that delusions might be substituted for truth, but [also] that under the pretence of ‘miracles’ the simple might be led aside from the true faith.... Men of eager curiosity who, not satisfied with lawful proof, were every day asking new ‘miracles’ -- [were]...carried away by such impostures.

“This is the reason why Christ in another passage foretold that **the reign of Antichrist** would be full of ‘**lying-signs**’ (Matthew 24:24).... Paul makes a similar declaration (Second Thessalonians 2:9)....

“Would to God that **the Pope** would subject to this rule, the power which he claims for himself!” If only “he did not usurp a tyrannical dominion over our souls. But he has set aside the authority of Christ, and infects **the Church** with his childish fooleries. This shows plainly enough how widely he has departed from the apostolic office....

“So much the more intolerable, is the wickedness of the **popish clergy** -- when they take this as a pretext for their sacrilege and tyranny.” Nevertheless, Christ’s true or **Protestant** “Ministers may confidently expect to be victorious over the whole World!”

Calvin’s condemnations of the Papacy from his commentaries on *The Acts of the Apostles*

In Acts 4:8-11, Peter the pebble claims that not he himself but his Saviour is the Rock. Says that Apostle: “Jesus Christ...is **the Stone** which was **disregarded**” by the leaders or ‘master builders’ of **the Jewish Church**.

Comments Calvin:¹¹⁴ “Also today the ‘master builders’ reject Christ. By this, the empty boasting of **the Pope** is plainly refuted -- who makes his boast of a bare title, so that he may usurp whatever belongs to Christ. **Even if** we were to allow to **the Pope, and his horned creatures** [viz. his mitred bishops] what they demand -- namely to be ordinary pastors in **the Church** -- they could not rise any higher in the end, than to be called ‘master builders’ [together] with Annas and Caiaphas!”

On Acts 5:28, Dr. Calvin comments:¹¹⁵ “Today, the Pope...arrogates unbridled supreme power to himself. He has no hesitation about condemning us as schismatics, as soon as he sees his decrees repudiated by us.... But if he is to be heard as ‘the Ambassador of Christ’ [sic!] – he must speak with the words of **Christ**. Now, since he openly plays the minister of Satan, he borrows authority from the Name of Christ without shame and without excuse....

“Spiritual tyrants usurp for themselves a power that is unrestricted and is not subject to the Word of God... From this, we can easily infer that the boasting of **the Pope** -- is ridiculous. For, at the same time as he is treading the whole dominion of Christ under his feet, and openly rising against God -- he is yet wishing to hide under the Name of God.”

Calvin also comments¹¹⁶ that Acts 9:32 “gives the lie to the foolishness of **the Papists** in inferring the primacy of Peter.... One’s wish is that **the Bishop of Rome**, who is determined to be regarded as **Peter’s successor**, would follow his example and move about to encourage the brethren.... Now, he...from his throne oppresses all the churches -- with a rule that is worse than tyrannous.”

On Acts 14:19, Dr. Calvin comments: that “**the Pope** has been allowed to play his own game as he likes -- not only pressing wretched souls into slavery, but also torturing them cruelly. Whatever he prescribed, was obediently accepted; and even today -- no matter how impossible are the laws he makes -- yet no one dares to murmur a complaint. At the same time, a few do acknowledge that **Christ’s** yoke is agreeable.”

Again, in Acts 15:13-30, not Peter but St. James was the Chairman at the Jerusalem Council or Synod or General Assembly of Christ’s Church. Calvin comments: “The impudence of **the Pope** is refuted clearly by the fact that the decree of the Council is determined by the authority of James rather than of Peter... Let **the men of Rome** now go and boast that **the Pope** is the Head of the Universal Church because he is the successor of Peter -- who allowed another to be over him!...”

“Although **the Pope** has crushed **the Church** with his sacrilegious tyranny, yet he vaunts himself with the title of **the Church**.... He is causing deception, through the empty title of **the Church** -- in order to put out the light of sound doctrine...”

“It is easy to refute such gross mockery -- because Christ has been set aside [by the Pope], and he [the Pope] himself alone seizes supreme power. Indeed, he makes the verbal admission that he is the ‘**Vicar of Christ**.’ But in actual fact, he banishes Christ to heaven for a specious exile -- and appropriates all His power to himself... The Gospel...is abominably trodden underfoot by this accursed idol [viz the Pope himself]....

“**The Papists** are truly absurd in wishing to prove from these words [Acts 15:28f] that some sort of special authority remains with the Church.... **The Pope** has made laws just as he liked, contrary to the Word of God with which to govern the Church -- and he has produced not 10 or 20 of them but an immense pile, so that they not only oppress souls tyrannically but there are also dreadful tortures with which to torment them. In order to excuse cruelty of that sort -- **the Pope’s** hired pettifoggers object that the Apostles also forbade the Gentiles what was not forbidden by the Word of God. But I deny that the Apostles added anything to the Word of God....

“There is nothing less consistent with holy and Christian order, than the exclusion of the body of the people from the common doctrine -- as if they were a herd of pigs, as usually happens under the tyranny of the Papacy. For, because the Pope and the horned bishops were not expecting the people ever to be obedient enough until they were reduced to crass ignorance -- they supposed that the best summary of the faith is by knowing nothing to depend on their opinions.”¹¹⁷

In Acts 16:16-19, one reads of a demon-possessed person who kept on talking about Christianity. Here, Dr. Calvin comments:¹¹⁸ “The Devil is in fact the ‘father of lies’.... We also see that he uses similar cunning every day. For what is more plausible, than the titles of **the Pope** by which he boasts that he is not the adversary but the ‘**Vicar of Christ**?’.... Yet when the truth is alleged by **the counterfeit ministers** of Satan like that, we know that it is corrupted and infected by a deadly plague.... “Satan is every bit as cunning as wicked, in abusing the name of God in innumerable ways...which **the Papacy** has made a reality for us....

“Today, all **the Papists** who are the most violent zealots for their own law are nevertheless thinking about nothing else except their own gain or domination.... They are either famished dogs which are driven on by ravenousness, or fierce lions which breathe out nothing but cruelty.”

In Acts 17:10*f*, one reads that the Jews in Berea nobly listened to the Apostles. Then they searched **the Scriptures daily**, to see whether those things were so.

Here, Dr. Calvin comments:¹¹⁹ “In this way, that sacrilegious assertion of **the Papists** is refuted that because nothing certain can be derived from Scripture -- faith depends only on what **the Church** decides. For since the Spirit of God commends the Thessalonians [in Berea], in their example He lays down a rule for **us**.... An inquiry from the Scriptures would be useless -- if they did not have sufficient light to teach us.

“Therefore, let this firm axiom stand -- that no doctrine is worth believing, except such as we perceive to be based on the Scriptures. **The Pope** wishes all to accept, without questioning, whatever he has blabbed out according to his own fancy. But will he be regarded as superior to Paul, into whose teaching learners were allowed to make inquiries?” Of course not!

In Acts 19:18-24, “many who believed came and confessed and showed forth their deeds” to Paul. Here, Dr. Calvin comments:¹²⁰ “The impudence of **the Papists** is all the greater. For they bring this forward, as an excuse for their tyranny. For what connexion has their auricular confession with this example?

“In the first place, the faithful confessed how miserably they had been deceived by Satan -- before they entered upon the Faith -- and produced some examples in public. On the other hand -- by **the papal law** an enumeration of all deeds, sayings and thoughts is demanded.

“We read that those men made confession once. **The Pope’s law** orders it to be repeated, annually at least.

“Those men came forward of their own accord; **the Pope** binds all with necessity. Luke says that many, not all, came; there is no exception in **the Pope’s law**.

“Those men humbled themselves before the assembly of believers. **The Pope’s command** is quite different, that the sinner mutter secret whispers into the ear of his own priest....

“Today, what zeal incites **the Pope, the horned bishops**, monks, and the whole dregs of **the papal clergy**? Yes, what madness urges them to oppose the Gospel so sharply?

“Indeed, they boast that they are contending for **the Catholic Faith**.... But the actual situation proclaims that they are fighting...to have well-heated kitchens [for themselves]!

“They calmly ignore horrible blasphemies against God -- so long as these do not diminish their income. They are extremely energetic -- only in preserving superstitions.”

On Acts 22:1, Calvin comments:¹²¹ “The pride of **the Pope** is...detestable. Since he has made himself a high-priest, without any command of God’s, and without any votes of assent from **the Church** -- he not only arrogates to himself all titles of honour, but a tyranny by which Christ is brought under his control.”

In Acts 23:6*f*, on the dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, Dr. Calvin comments:¹²² “Today we see that the factions that are aflame in **the Papacy**, are quiet; so long as they are at one in their eagerness to suppress the Gospel.... Corruption of the Law was the origin of sects among the **Jews**. Similarly the Lord has avenged the profanation of His Word in **the Papacy**...when it was corrupted by various human fabrications....

“The Lord, Who preserved His Church among the **Jews** in such a thick fog of errors, in such a great heap of superstitions, in the unbridled licence of sects -- will never allow it to suffer total destruction in the World. The same thing happened in **the Papacy**....

“Today, when we inveigh against **the Papacy** -- its hired advocates retort that nothing is more absurd than the supposition that the Church of God has been extinguished completely for many generations. As if we

really supposed that no people survived for God -- when those who ought to have maintained the pure worship of God, fell away and deserted Him!

“Indeed, we do complain that **the Church** was corrupted by those tyrants; that **the Temple of God** was profaned so that it was scarcely different from a pigsty; that Christ’s flock was scattered, and His sheepfold destroyed; and finally, that **the Church** was hidden from human eyes.... Although the Lord nevertheless knew His elect, even if they were scattered -- and cherished them in secret, under His wings.

“How foolish **the Papists** really are in boasting about titles of honour, is apparent from the fact that it was not the mass of the ordinary people or a few private individuals but the priests themselves who long ago split **the Jewish Church** by fatal disagreements. Accordingly, there is no reason for us to hesitate to be firm in resisting the arrogance of **the Pope** and all his men with whom we have the same struggle as the Prophets and Apostles had with the priests of their day.

“Reverence for **the Church** did not prevent the holy men from attacking the impious tyranny of bad priests. So we ought not to be frightened by the worthless disguises by which **the Papists** deceitfully commend themselves, while nevertheless they have given up the doctrine of godliness.”

Thus the conflicting views of sects such as “the Essenes and...the Pharisees and Sadducees” in **the Jewish Church**, explains Calvin -- had its parallel also in the conflicting views of sects such as the Augustinians and the Dominicans and the Franciscans *etc.* in **the Roman Church**. Indeed, this fact exposes the dishonesty of Romanists -- whenever they try to discredit **the Protestant Church**, simply because of the minor differences between Calvinists and Lutherans and Zwinglians *etc.*

Calvin’s condemnations of the Papacy from his commentary on First Corinthians

In First Corinthians 9:4f, Paul asks a question on behalf of himself and the Apostle Barnabas. He asks: “Don’t **we**, as well as the **other** Apostles, have the ability to take along with us a believing sister as a **wife** - like the Lord’s brothers, and [Simon Peter] Cephas, **do**? Or is it only I and Barnabas who do not have the ability?”

Comments Calvin:¹²³ “Anyone who wants to find support for **the Papacy** in this passage, is simply making a fool of himself! We quite agree that Peter was indeed recognized as the first among the Apostles.... But Peter’s primacy was not lordship. Indeed, there was no comparison between it and the absolute authority of a lord.... He was **yet answerable** to his colleagues [Galatians 1:17-19 & 2:1-12 *cf.* First Peter 5:1-3].

“Besides, it is one thing to be first -- **only** in the **Church**. It is quite another, to claim for oneself sovereignty or pre-eminence **over the whole World**. Even if we [were to] agree to all this so far as Peter is concerned -- what has that to do with **the Pope**? For as Matthias succeeded Judas, so some **Judas** could take Peter’s place. Yes, and we now see -- after a period of more than 900 years of his ‘successors’ or at least those who **boast** that they are his successors -- that not one of them [*viz.* since the Bishop of Rome Gregory I] is a whit better than **Judas**....

“The Apostles did not shrink from marriage, like **the papal clergy** who detest it so much because it does not befit the ‘sanctity’ of their order. But it was **later** than the Apostles, that men lit upon the remarkable piece of wisdom that ‘the priests’ of the Lord are defiled -- if they have intercourse with their lawful wives.

“At last, it went so far that **Pope Siricius** had no hesitation about calling marriage ‘an uncleanness of the flesh in which nobody can please God.’ What then will happen to the unfortunate Apostles, who persisted in this ‘impurity’ until their deaths?!”

Calvin's condemnations of the Papacy from his commentary on Second Corinthians

On Second Corinthians 10:8, Calvin comments:¹²⁴ "There are those who make false claims.... Like **the Pope**, when he puffs out his cheeks and thunders that he is '**the Vicar of Christ**.' But what proof of this can he offer? For Christ did not confer this kind of authorities on dummies but on Apostles and other Ministers of His, so that the teaching of His Gospel might not go undefended!"

In Second Corinthians 11:3-5, the inspired Apostle Paul warns against false-apostles who devilishly preach 'another Jesus.' He then declares: "I was not behind the very chiefest Apostles [plural]."

Here Calvin comments:¹²⁵ "If false-teachers have a show of wisdom to persuade us..., they work by the same methods that Satan employed to deceive Eve. For he did not openly declare himself her enemy -- but crept in secretly, under plausible excuses.... **The Papists** show the very same kind of gratitude today to their false-bishops." Yet St. Paul states "that God has honoured his Apostleship with no lesser marks of His favour than that of John or Peter!"

In Second Corinthians 11:13f, Paul condemns all "false-apostles." He adds that "**Satan himself** is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as [if] they were Ministers of righteousness."

Here Calvin comments:¹²⁶ "When **Satan** tempts us to evil, he does not profess to be what he really is.... He always covers himself with some disguise in order to trick us, and does not immediately show us his **horns**, as the common saying goes, but rather takes pains to appear to be an 'angel of light' These are golden preambles: '**Vicar of Christ**'; '**Successor of Peter**'; '**Servant of the servants of God**.' But when the masks are removed -- who and what will **the Pope** be discovered to be? Satan himself, his master, can scarcely outdo his most accomplished pupil....

"In our day, you will hardly find one man in thirty who will bow beneath the yoke of Christ -- whereas all men have endured without complaint the harsh tyranny of the Pope. The very people who fly into a passion against the fatherly and wholesome rebukes of their pastors, are those who once calmly swallowed the most atrocious insults of the monks. Can it be that those whose ears are so tender and backward in hearing the truth, deserve Antichrist's racks and tortures rather than Christ's gentle sway?!"

Calvin's condemnations of the Papacy from his commentary on Galatians

In Galatians 2:6-21, the Apostle Paul insists that he had the duty publically to refute Peter whenever the latter erred in public. Here Calvin comments:¹²⁷ "Paul is not satisfied, until the Galatians have grasped that he had learned nothing from Peter and the Apostles.... He admits that they were first in time, but argues that this does not debar him from being their equal in rank....

"Paul is not estimating the Apostles at their true value -- but only from the idle boasting of their adversaries. To advertise their worthless wares, they talked big about Peter and James and John -- and took advantage of the veneration with which the Church regarded them, to degrade Paul....

"Peter's Apostleship pertained peculiarly to the Jews. Let **the Romanists** ask by what right they derive from him their succession to the primacy! If **the Pope of Rome** claims the primacy because he is [supposed to be] Peter's successor -- he ought to exercise it over the Jews!

"**Paul** is here declared to be the **chief Apostle** of the Gentiles [Galatians 2:8f]. Yet **they** [viz. **the Papists**] deny that he was bishop of Rome. Therefore, if **the Pope** would enter into the possession of his primacy -- let him assemble churches from the Jews!

"For we ought to acknowledge as an Apostle him who by the decree of the Holy Spirit and by the consent of the whole apostolic college has been proclaimed one, publically. Those who transfer that right to Peter, overturn both human and divine ordination....

“It is surprising [in Galatians 2:9] that James should be put before Peter.... The reason, perhaps, is that he [James but not Peter] presided over the Church [Council] at Jerusalem....

“Paul did not simply reprove Peter, as one Christian toward another. But he did it officially, as the phrase is. That is, by the right of the apostolic office that he bore. And here **the Roman Papacy** is struck down by another thunderbolt. In particular it is a reproof of the impudence of **the Roman Antichrist** in claiming that he need not give any reasons for his actions, and so exempting himself from the judgment of the universal **Church**....

“This one man [Paul] reproves Peter in the presence of the whole Church; and Peter obediently submits to correction. The whole debate on those two points, was nothing less than the overthrow of the tyrannical primacy which **the Romanists** prate was founded on divine right. If they wish to have God as their Founder, they must write a new Bible. If they do not wish to have Him as an open opponent -- these two chapters of the Holy Scriptures must be wiped out....

“We are not now called to plead for Paul against blasphemers who dare to speak against the Holy Spirit. We are concerned with **the Papists**. They ridicule us -- when we follow Paul’s reasoning that if righteousness is from works, Christ died in vain.... Let them ridicule Paul, whose teaching we follow! They must refute him, before they can refute us.... **The Papists** are not very different from the Jews. For, though they do not dare to attack Paul -- they entirely destroy his intention.”

Calvin’s condemnations of the Papacy from his commentaries on Ephesians and Colossians

In Ephesians 2:20f, the Apostle Paul tells Christians that they have been “built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets.” He then insists that “Jesus Christ Himself is the chief Cornerstone in Whom all the building, being fitly framed together, keeps on growing into a Holy Temple in the Lord.”

Here, Calvin comments¹²⁸ that the Christians “are founded on the doctrine of the Apostles [plural] and Prophets” – upon the teachings of the Newer Testament and of the Older Testament. “We are thus enabled to distinguish between a **true** and a false Church. This is of the first necessity. For no imagination is more dangerous, and a slip is easily made. Hardly any ‘Churches’ boast more loudly of the name -- than those which bear a false and empty title....

“Christ is the only Foundation.... We are also taught where to seek the Word of God -- in the Prophets and Apostles.... In vain do **Papists** and the Turks and other sects boast of their antiquity. For they are the degenerate offspring of true and pure religion.... What will become of Peter?!”

In Colossians 1:13-18, the inspired Paul insists that the Son of God “is the **Head** of...**the Church**.” Comments Calvin:¹²⁹ “When **the Papists** want to support the tyranny of their idol [the Pope], they allege that the Church would be *akephalon* [or ‘headless’], if **the Pope** did not rule in it as a head.”

“Paul, however, does not allow this honour even to angels. And yet he does not behead the Church. For as Christ claims for Himself this title, so He truly exercises the office.

“I am also aware of the quibble by which they [**the Papists**] try to escape -- [by claiming] that **the Pope** is a ministerial head. But the name of ‘head’ is too noble -- to be transferred to any mortal man under any pretext, especially without the command of Christ! **Gregory** is more modest, when he writes in Epistle 92 Book 4 that Peter...and the other Apostles were members under one Head.”

Calvin’s condemnations of the Papacy from his commentary on Second Thessalonians

In his *Theme of the Second Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians*, within his work *The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Romans and to the Thessalonians*, Dr. Calvin observes regarding Second Thessalonians:¹³⁰ “In chapter two, he **disproves** a profitless and fanciful belief about **the imminent return of Christ**.... He

does so, by arguing that **first** there must come **apostasy in the Church**.... Indeed, **Antichrist** must reign in **the Temple of God**."

In Second Thessalonians 2:3, the inspired Paul discusses the certainty of **the Second Coming of Christ unto Final Judgment**. Yet there he insists: "It will **not** be, **except** the '**falling away**' come **first**, and '**the man of sin**' be revealed -- the 'son of perdition.'

To Calvin, that means **the Papacy** -- the whole series of **Romanistic Popes**. Thus, in his 1550 *Commentary on Second Thessalonians* (2:3) he states¹³¹ that according to the inspired apostle Paul, "**the day of Christ...will not come** until the World has fallen into **apostasy** and the rule of **Antichrist** has held sway in the **Church**.... When the word '**apostasy**' is used...**it cannot be confined to a few individuals**.... The word '**apostates**' can be understood **only** of those who have **previously enlisted in the service of Christ** and His Gospel.

"Paul, then, is predicting a **general defection** on the part of the **Visible Church**.... In our **own day**, indeed [1550], very many people begin to waver -- when they consider **the long continued dispersion of the Church**. ... The pretext of the **Romanists** which they make in extenuation of the tyranny of their **idol [the Papacy]** -- is that it was not possible for Christ to forsake His bride.

"But here...the impudence of the **Romanists**...is exposed clearly. **Because Paul declares that when the World has been brought under the rule of Christ -- a defection will take place.... Paul is not speaking of one individual -- but of a kingdom that was to be seized by Satan, for the purpose of setting up a seat of abomination in the midst of God's Temple.**

"This we see accomplished in **Popery**.... The sect of Mohammed [A.D. 570-632f]...tore away about half of the **Church**. It remained for [the A.D. 606-666f papal] **Antichrist** to infect with his poison the part which was left."

Now it should be noted that when the (papal) 'man of sin' would be unveiled, he would "keep on opposing and keep on exalting himself against all that is called God." Indeed, "he would keep on going into the temple of God to be seated [or enthroned] there (as a god), while claiming to be a god." Second Thessalonians 2:4.

Romanists object that their **Popes** have never tried to exalt themselves **above** God **Himself**. Yet **this text does not say** 'the son of perdition...exalts himself **above** [the] God.' It says: "the son of perdition...keeps on opposing and keeps on exalting himself **against** all that is **called** a god or is [revered or] worshipped, so that he (like a god) **keeps on going into the temple of God to be enthroned there**, claiming to be a god" - while claiming to reign in the place of God and represent God. Compare the Greek original: "*antikeimenos kai huperairomenos epi panta legomenon theon ee sebasma, hooste auton eis ton naon tou Theou (hoos theon) kathisai -- apodeiknunta heauton hoti estin theos.*"

In Second Thessalonians 2:4, the words "*hoos theon*" (meaning "like a god") are not in most of the oldest nor even in the majority of all the Greek manuscript copies. However, G* has *hina*; and (G)KL and other manuscripts here have *hoos theon*.

Nay more. At the end of that verse, the undisputed Greek words *apodeiknunti heauton hoti estin theos* -- do **not mean** "claiming to be **The God**"; but mean only "claiming to be a god" or the final earthly representative of **The God**.

But even if all of the Greek words shown by us above in our discussion of Second Thessalonians 2:4 were to be or perhaps even were in the original Greek autograph, it would still mean nothing more than that the man of sin: would keep on opposing all that is called **either** a god or **The God**; would keep on going into the Temple of **The God**, there to remain enthroned; and would also keep on claiming to be **not The God** but a god (who would then be the final earthly representative **The God**). Indeed, even Romanism claims no more than this for her long line of Popes!

The omission of the definite article "the" (*ho* in Greek), in crucial places above, is very significant. For it means that the man of sin would claim no more as regards himself -- than God claimed for Moses. It means the man of sin would **not** claim to be The God, but only a god alias a person duly appointed officially to **represent** The God.

In Exodus 4:16, the Lord God claims that the fallible leader Moses was to be "in the place of God" -- *l' Elohiym* in the Hebrew Massoretic text, or *pros ton Theon* in the Greek Septuagint translation. And in Exodus 7:1, God says He had made Moses "a god to Pharaoh" (*'elohiym l'Far'o* or *theon Pharaoo*). Indeed, Moses as God's representative ("instead of God"), no more claimed to be the Lord Himself -- than does the Pope (who however, unlike Moses, falsely claims himself to be God's final earthly representative).

In Psalm 82:1-7, David inspiredly stated that a corrupt judge was not God, but rather that he was supposed to be the representative of (The) "God...in the congregation of gods" -- whenever he there functioned as a "god"; on a bench; in a law court. *'Elohiym nitsaab ba 'a:dat-'eel, b' qereb 'elohiym yishpot* -- or *Ho Theos estee en sunagoogee; theoon, en mesoo; de theous diakrinei*.

Says the Lord to such corrupt judges: "I have said, 'you are gods'...but you shall die as men." *'Aniy 'aamarthiy "'elohiym 'aththem" ... 'aakeen k' aadaam th' muuthuun* -- or *Egoo eipa ' theoi este ...humeis de hoos anthroopoi apothneeskete*.

In John 10:34, the infallible Christ applies this even to the corrupt leaders of Israel. "Is it not written...I said 'you are gods'?" -- *ouk estin gegrammenon... 'Egoo eipa ' theoi este ' ? ' "*

No wonder, then, that also Paul could make his infallible prediction in Second Thessalonians 2:4. We mean his prediction that the man of sin would "keep on going into the temple of God (*tou Theou*) to be enthroned there as a god (*hoos theon*), claiming to be a god (*theos*)!"

On Exodus 4:16's words "Aaron would be instead of a mouth, and Moses instead of God" -- John Calvin comments:¹³² "To be 'instead of God' is the same as to lead or to direct to have the chief command.... We know that the name of God is attributed to every potentate.... As when the devil himself is called 'the god of this World' (Second Corinthians 4:4)."

Indeed, on Exodus 7:1, Dr. Calvin comments:¹³³ "Moses therefore was a god to Pharaoh. Because in him, God exerted His power -- so that he should be superior to the greatness of the king."

On Psalm 82:1-6, Dr. John Calvin comments:¹³⁴ "It is quite common for the Hebrews to adorn with the title of 'god' whatever is rare and excellent.... The name 'gods' is to be understood of 'judges' -- on whom God has impressed special marks of His glory.... This will afford no support and protection to wicked judges."

On John 10:34f, Calvin further observes:¹³⁵ "Scripture calls 'gods' those on whom God has laid an honourable office.... The passage which Christ quotes, comes in Psalm 82:6 -- where God [there] expostulates with the kings and judges of the Earth who tyrannically abuse their authority.... He reproaches them for being unmindful of the One from whom they received so much honour, and [yet were] profaning the Name of God."

"Christ," explains Calvin, "applies this to the present case" of Leaders in the Jewish Church in His Own age. "They are adorned with the name of 'gods' -- because they are God's Ministers.... Let us know that [also] Magistrates are called 'gods' -- because God has committed the rule to them."

Very interestingly, Dr. Calvin says this just a few pages after having commented¹³⁶ on John 10:19 that "the wickedness of many today is the reason why the Church is troubled by divisions and why controversies are started. Yet those who disturb the peace, blame us [Protestants] for it, and call us 'schismatics.' For the chief accusation that the Papists bring against us, is that our teaching has upset the peace of the Church. But if they would yield quietly to Christ and uphold the truth -- all the commotions would be settled at once."

Commenting on Second Thessalonians 2:4, Calvin insists:¹³⁷ “Paul now gives us a striking picture of **Antichrist**.... Paul will afterwards attribute to **Antichrist** the power of deception, by means of godless doctrines [like that of Purgatory] and false-miracles [like that of the Mass].... Paul meant that **Antichrist** would seize the things which belong to **God alone**.... Anyone, even a ten-year-old boy, who has learned from Scripture what are the things that belong particularly to God, and who on the other hand considers well what **the Pope** usurps for himself -- will not have much difficulty in recognizing **Antichrist**....

"There is not one of these things which **the Pope** does not claim to be his own prerogative. He boasts that it is his right to bind men's consciences with such 'laws' as he pleases [cf. Daniel 7:25].... With regard to the Sacraments, he either institutes new ones at his own whim -- or corrupts and debases those which had been instituted by Christ....

"What, I ask, does it mean to be 'lifted above all that is reckoned to be divine'; if this is not what **the Pope** is doing? When in this way he deprives God of His honour, he leaves Him nothing but the empty title of God, while he transfers to himself the whole of His power.... Paul does not use the term 'God' by itself, but indicates that the pride of **Antichrist** would be such that he would: set himself apart from his position and rank as servant; mount the judgment-seat [or **throne**] of God; and would **reign**....

“Anything that is put in the place of God -- even though it does not bear the name of God -- is, as we know, **an idol**...[even] ‘in the **Temple of God**.’ This one word fully refutes the error or rather stupidity of those who hold **the Pope** to be ‘**the Vicar of Christ**’ – on the ground that he has a settled residence **in the Church**. Paul sets **Antichrist in the very sanctuary of God**. He is not an enemy from the outside, but from the household of faith -- and **opposes Christ under the very name of Christ**.... It is **the Temple of God in which the Pope** holds sway. But the Temple has been profaned by **sacrileges beyond number**.”

In Second Thessalonians 2:5-8, Paul reminded the Church: “Don’t you remember...I told you these things? And now you know what keeps on withholding, so that he [the ‘**man of sin**’ alias the one John calls ‘**Antichrist**’] may be revealed in his own time.... The mystery of iniquity is already at work.... Then the lawless one shall be manifested whom the Lord Jesus shall slay with the Breath of His Mouth and bring to nought.”

John Calvin comments:¹³⁸ “He had given them **early** warning about the **reign of Antichrist** and the devastation that was coming **upon the Church**.... Those whom he addressed, were soon to see much that would disturb them. And when **future generations** saw a considerable number of those who had professed the Christian Faith abandon True Religion as though stung by a gadfly or rather some raging madness -- what could they do, but waver? ... **Antichrist** is...to seize for himself the vacant rule of **the Roman Empire** [cf. Daniel chapters 2 and 7]....

“The **Roman Empire** prevented the **rise of Antichrist**.... Satan had **not yet** amassed such strength that **Antichrist** could openly oppress **the Church**.... The name ‘**Antichrist**’ does not designate a single individual, but a **single kingdom** which extends **throughout many generations** [plural!]....

“The **reign of Antichrist** will be **temporary**.... He had predicted the **destruction** of the reign of **Antichrist**, and now describes the **manner** of his destruction. He will be **annihilated** by the **Word of the Lord**.... Paul does **not** think that Christ will accomplish this in a **single** moment.... **The Antichrist** would be **completely** and **utterly** destroyed....

“Christ will scatter the darkness in which **Antichrist** will reign by the rays which He will emit -- **before His coming** [in Final Judgment] -- just as the sun **before** becoming visible to us chases away the darkness of the night.... "This **victory** of the **Word** will therefore be seen **in the World**.”

“For [the Spirit or] ‘the **Breath** of His **Mouth**’ means simply His **Word** -- as in Isaiah 11:4, the passage to which Paul appears to be alluding. In that passage, the Prophet takes ‘the Rod of His Mouth’ and ‘the Breath of His lips’ to mean the same thing.... He also furnishes Christ with these very weapons, so that He may scatter His enemies.”

Thus, according to Dr. Calvin, Isaiah 11:2-4 is cognate to Second Thessalonians 2:8. The former states that "the Spirit of the Lord shall rest" upon the Messiah -- and that thus "He shall smite the Earth with the rod of His Mouth; and with **the Breath of His lips** He shall slay the wicked."

There, Calvin comments¹³⁹ that the Son "came down to us -- and received the gifts of the **Spirit**, so that He might **bestow** them upon **us**. And this is the anointing from which He receives the name of 'Christ' -- which He imparts to us....

"Christ imparts to us the gifts which He received from the Father, so that He may live in us and so that we may live in Him.... The Prophet here extols the efficacy of **the Word**, which is Christ's royal sceptre. By the '**rod of His mouth**' is meant a **sceptre** which consists in **words**....

"In the second clause, he repeats the same idea by the phrase 'the Breath of His lips' -- as if he had said that Christ will have no need to borrow aid from others to cast down His enemies and to strike down [just] everything that opposes His Government. For a mere '**Breath**' -- or a '**Word**' -- will be enough.... The Gospel is 'a two-edged sword'.... Christ is armed '**with the Breath of His lips** to slay the wicked'....

"Paul also...undoubtedly alludes to this passage, when he speaks of **the destruction of Antichrist**. 'And then shall the lawless one be unveiled, whom the Lord shall consume with the **Breath of His Mouth** and shall destroy with the **manifestation of His Presence**.' Second Thessalonians 2:7-8.... He shows that Christ...will drive away...the whole of them together -- and their very **head and leader** [*viz.* **the papal Antichrist**] -- by the sound of His **doctrine**....

"When the Prophet says 'by the Breath of His lips,' this must not be limited to the Person of Christ. For it refers to **the Word which is preached by His Ministers**.... Hence it follows that all who reject the outward **preaching** of the Gospel, shake off this sceptre....

"The **doctrine** of the Gospel is His royal banner, which assembles believers under His dominion. Wherever therefore the doctrine of the Gospel is **preached** in purity -- there, we are certain that **Christ reigns**.... Hence it is evident how foolishly **the Papists** boast that the Church belongs to them -- when they order Christ Himself to be silent, and cannot endure the sound of **His Voice**."

There is indeed a **progressive "coming"** of Christ's Kingdom, here and now, through the expansion of His earthly Church. There was a "coming" of Christ and of His Kingdom at the Red Sea; at Sinai; at Paran; at Seir; and throughout subsequent Church History. Also, the great Protestant Reformer John Calvin declared that there will be a similar "coming" of the Lord yet again -- when He comes to destroy "the man of sin" **by our declaring of His Word, before His visible and Final Coming!**

In his further comment on the remark that Christ will consume **Antichrist** "with the **Spirit of His Mouth**" in Second Thessalonians 2:8, Dr. Calvin then continues¹⁴⁰ "True and sound **doctrine**...is represented as being sufficient to **put an end to all ungodliness**, and as **destined at all times to be victorious over** all the devices of **Satan**.... The **preaching** [note well!] of this doctrine is **referred** to as Christ's '**coming**' to us."

In Second Thessalonians 2:9, Paul predicts that the Antichrist's 'coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.' Dr. John Calvin comments:¹⁴¹ "If this is to be contrasted with the Kingdom of Christ, it must consist partly of **false-doctrines and deceptions** and partly of **false-miracles** [such as **the Romish Mass**]. The Kingdom of Christ consists of the doctrine of truth and the power of the Spirit. Satan therefore puts on the mask of Christ, for the purpose of opposing Him in the person of His 'Vicar' [**the Pope**]....

"By 'lying signs' he [Paul] means not simply those which clever individuals contrive with lies and deceit for the purpose of leading the simple-minded astray -- the kind of **fraud** with which the whole of **the Papacy** abounds, for they are part of the supremacy which Satan has previously made his own -- but he holds that falsehood consists in the fact that Satan **reverses** what are otherwise **truly** the works of **God**.... He deceives by means of his **trickery** -- as we find [also] in the case of **Pharaoh's magicians**. Exodus 7:11."

In Second Thessalonians 2:11, Paul predicts: God shall send them strong delusion -- so that they would believe a lie.” Comments Calvin:¹⁴² “Without any doubt, we have a notable demonstration of this in **the Papacy**. No words can express how foul is the abomination of **the Papists**, how massive and shameful are their nonsensical superstitions, and how far removed their ravings are from common sense.”

In Second Thessalonians 2:13, the inspired Paul insists that ‘we are bound to give thanks always to God.’ Here, Calvin’s comments¹⁴³ that “faith should not waver through fear of the [then] coming apostasy. Yet at the same time, his purpose was to consider the interests not simply of these [first century A.D. Christians], but also of future generations [plural].” Behold his **Historicism!**

Finally, in Second Thessalonians “2:18 ” alias 3:1, Paul pleads: ‘Pray for us so that **the Word of the Lord** may run’ its course! There, Dr. Calvin comments:¹⁴⁴ “The ‘course’ to which he refers, means dissemination...viz., so that his **preaching** may have power and efficacy.” For it is the **powerful preaching of Puritan Protestantism** that will yet bring down the Antichrist/Pope!

Calvin’s condemnations of the Papacy from his commentaries on First and Second Timothy

In First Timothy 4:1-3, the inspired Apostle Paul warns against those who “in the latter times...shall depart from the faith.” He says that they would become notorious, *inter alia* for “forbidding to marry -- and for commanding to abstain from meats which God has created to be received.”

Here, Dr. Calvin comments:¹⁴⁵ “We have good reason for holding today that this prophecy applies to **the Papists**, since they enjoin celibacy and abstinence from foods more strictly than they do any of God’s Commandments... Thus it is in vain for **the Papists** to bring forward ancient heretics, as though they alone were the objects of Paul’s condemnation.... They themselves are...guilty, in the same way.... To forbid things that are free, whether universally or in special cases, is always a devillish tyranny.”

In Second Timothy 3:1-14, the inspired Apostle Paul warns that “the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but shall, according to their own lusts [and] having itching ears, heap up for themselves teachers.” As a result, “they shall turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned unto fables.”

Comments Dr. John Calvin:¹⁴⁶ “Under ‘the last days’ -- he includes the universal condition of the Christian Church. He is **not [preteristically]** comparing his own age with ours, but rather teaching **[historicistically]** what the future condition of Christ’s Kingdom would be....

“The impurity of **the Roman clergy** is so great, that it stinks in the nostrils of the whole World. For all their wickedness, [however,] they do not cease to make proud claims to all the rights and titles of saints....

“You would think that here Paul was drawing a true-to-life picture of the monastic orders.... If we wish to be Christ’s disciples, we must unlearn all that we have learnt apart from Him. For example, our own pure instruction in the [Christian] Faith began -- when we rejected and forgot all that we had been taught under **Papistry**.”

In Second Timothy 4:16f, Paul states: “At my first answer [or trial in Rome], no man stood with me but all men forsook me.” Comments Calvin:¹⁴⁷ “I should like to ask those who imagine that Peter presided over the Roman Church, where he was at this time. In their view, he was not yet dead. For they tell us that his death was exactly a year after Paul’s. And they make his pontificate to last for seven years.

“Here Paul mentions his first defence.... If Peter is not to lose the title of **Pope** [*sic*] -- must he be pronounced guilty of faithlessly deserting Paul, with the rest? Certainly when the whole matter is duly examined -- our conclusion will be that all which is believed about **Peter’s ‘papacy’** -- is a foolish tale!”

Calvin's condemnations of the Papacy from his commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews

In Hebrews 7:10-12f, God says that Jesus Christ is our Priest not according to the order of Levi or Aaron, but according to the order of Melchizedek (who brought forth bread and wine). Here, Dr. John Calvin anti-transubstantiationistically comments:¹⁴⁸ “**The Papists** are doubly ridiculous, in that they first of all deny that there is bread and wine in **the Mass** -- and then go on to prattle about the sacrifice of bread and wine....

“The depravity of **the Pope** was utterly impudent, in inserting in his decretals that he was now endowed with the same power that Aaron once had -- in that the law with the priesthood had been ‘transferred to him’ The Apostle is saying...that the ceremonies have ceased from the time that Christ came forth with the command to proclaim the New Covenant....

“It is the Person of Christ alone that is contrasted with Moses and Aaron. On what pretext will **Antichrist** arrogate to himself any such right? I do not argue here simply for the sake of refuting such gross impertinence. But it is worth while indicating to readers this sacrilegious impudence -- so that they see how unconcerned this **good** [*sic!*] ‘Servant of the servants of Christ’ is about the honour of his Master, and how horribly he violates the Scriptures in order to give some kind of pretence to his tyranny.”

In Hebrews 10:1-3, God says that unlike the once-and-for-all sacrifice by and of Jesus at Calvary -- the Levitical offerings were repeatedly sacrificed “year by year.”¹⁴⁹ Comments Calvin: “This one thing is sufficient to refute the cleverness of **the Papists**, by which they seem to find an ingenious way round their absurdity in defending the sacrifice of **the Mass**.”

“When they are faced with the objection that a repeated sacrifice is superfluous, since the force of that which Christ offered once for all is eternal -- they immediately make the excuse that it is not a different sacrifice that is made in **the Mass**, but the same one. This is their answer. But what does the Apostle say, to the contrary?

“He says that the sacrifice which is offered a second time -- even though it be the same -- is not effective or suitable for atonement. Though **the Papists** should shout a thousand times that the sacrifice which Christ made once for all on the cross and which they themselves make today is not different but one and the same, I shall still maintain from the Apostle's own mouth that if the sacrifice of Christ availed to please God -- it not only put an end to other sacrifices but that it is impossible to repeat it.... It is clear that the ‘offering’ of Christ in **the Mass**, is a sacrilege....

“The sacrifice of **the Mass** for **the Papists**, is that they imagine that in it the grace of the death of Christ is applied to us to take away our sins. But if the Apostle is right in concluding that the sacrifices of the [Levitical] law were weak because they were repeated yearly to obtain pardon -- by the same token we may conclude that the sacrifice of the death of Christ was weak, if it is to be offered daily [in order] for us to experience its power. Whatever be the pretences with which they colour their **Mass** -- they can never escape the charge of dreadful blasphemy against Christ.”

In Hebrews 10:15f, God makes it clear that the New Testament is a different Covenant to that of Levi and Aaron. Comments Calvin:¹⁵⁰ “Readers must briefly be reminded that the sacrifices of the [Levitical] law are repealed here not more completely than the invention of **the Papists** about the ‘sacrifice’ of the **Mass** is refuted.

“**They** maintain that their **Mass** -- is a sacrifice for the atonement of the sins of the living and the dead. The Apostle says that there is now no place for sacrifice, from the time that the prophecy of Jeremiah [31:33 cf. Hebrews 10:20f] was fulfilled.

“**The Papists** make the rejoinder that this is not something new or different from the sacrifice of Christ, but the same thing. The Apostle, on the other hand, maintains that the same sacrifice should not be repeated; and he says that the sacrifice of Christ was not only unique but offered once for all. Add to that the fact

that he very often claims the honour of priesthood for Christ alone -- so that nobody but He alone is suitable to offer it.

“**The Papists** have another evasion, in calling their sacrifice ‘bloodless.’ But the Apostle maintains without exception that death is necessary to make a sacrifice.

“**The Papists** make excuses by saying that **the Mass** is the application of the one sacrifice which Christ made. But the Apostle, on the other hand, teaches that the sacrifices of the [Levitical] law were abolished by the death of Christ -- because there was remembrance of sins in them. It is clear from this -- that this kind of application, which they invent, has disappeared....

“Let **the Papists** turn to any formula they like. They cannot escape the fact -- that this present argument of the Apostle’s, makes it clear that their **Mass** abounds in all kinds of sacrilege.

“In the first place, by the testimony of the Apostle -- Christ alone was suitable to offer Himself. In **the Mass** -- ‘He’ [?!] is offered by other hands.

“Secondly, the Apostle maintains that the sacrifice of Christ is not only unique -- but offered once for all, so that it may not be repeated. In **the Mass**, however, they may chatter about the sacrifice being the same - - yet it appears to be made every day; and they themselves admit it!

“The Apostle acknowledges that there is no sacrifice without blood and death. **They** talk nonsense -- when they say that the sacrifice which they offer, is ‘bloodless.’

“When the Apostle deals with obtaining pardon for sins -- he bids us take refuge in the one sacrifice which Christ offered on the cross.... He distinguishes us from the [patriarchal] fathers by this mark -- that the rite of continual sacrifice was abolished by the coming of Christ. **They [the Papists]** on the other hand require daily applications through sacrifice for the death of Christ to be efficacious for us, so there is [then] no difference between Christians and Jews -- except in the outward sign.”

Calvin’s condemnations of the Papacy from his commentaries on the Epistles of Peter

In 1551, Calvin completed his [*Commentary on*] *The First and Second Epistles of Peter*. Right at its very front, is yet to be found his *Dedication to his most serene highness Edward the Sixth the most Christian Prince, King of England...[and] Ireland*.

There, Dr. John Calvin refers¹⁵¹ to “the satellites of **the Roman Antichrist** [who] by their spurious maltreatment mock Christ.” Then, referring to the 1545^f Romish Council of Trent, Calvin adds that “**the Pope** himself is said to have summoned again his own masked council...to obliterate the name of **Christ** and to strangle **His Church**.... Thus, when [Pope] Paul III had resolved to kill and destroy all who preferred to defend the truth to their own life -- he made a show, at Trent, of that odious spectre....

“**The Papacy** began to decline from the time of **Luther**.... What, I pray, was that recent rabble at Trent...but a sort of empty apparition which did not disturb the pleasures of **the Pope** any more than the sound of the trumpets...with which he daily amuses himself.... Who can believe that **a Pope** could be terrified by such fictitious councils as that of Trent? ... From all the caves of **monks** there will come forth a great conflux of **frogs**...who by their eager croaking will banish far away every truth [*cf.* Revelation 16:13f]....

“It cannot possibly be hoped that an Assembly which is assembled under the authority of **Antichrist** will be governed by the Spirit, or that the slaves of Satan will exercise any moderation.... **The Pope** -- who is the professed and sworn enemy of Christ -- would occupy the chief place of authority....

“It is easy to show how preposterous and perverted is the administration of the Sacraments under **the Papacy**, so that hardly anything bears any resemblance to the genuine doctrine of Christ.... We see that

these **Antichrists** rush on.... If only the pure and simple doctrine of Scripture were to shine forth as it ought -- everyone who does not refuse to open his eyes would acknowledge **the Papacy** to be a savage and an execrable monster, made up through **Satan's arts**....

"We prove that **the Mass** -- which they imagine to be a sacrifice -- is a disgraceful denial of the sacrifice of Christ.... As interpreters of Scripture according to their ability supply weapons to fight against Antichrist -- so you also must bear in mind that it is a duty which belongs to your Majesty to vindicate from unworthy calumnies the true and genuine interpretation of Scripture -- so that True Religion may flourish!"

In First Peter 2:5-8, the pebble *Petros* regards not himself but only Christ as the great *Petra* or big Rock or "chief Corner-Stone." For He, explains Peter, is "the Stone which the [Jewish] 'builders' had disallowed...and a Stone of stumbling and a **Rock** of offence."

Comments Calvin:¹⁵² "God has pronounced Christ to be a precious and a chosen **Stone**. Peter [too] draws the conclusion that He is so, to us....

"**The Pope** calls himself '**the Vicar of Christ**.' And yet we see how fiercely he opposes Him.... It is...doubly ridiculous of **the Pope** and his followers to arrogate to themselves supreme and indubitable authority, on this sole pretence that they are the ordinary governors of **the Church**....

"Christ becomes a **Stumbling-Stone**...when men perversely oppose the Word of God. This is what the Jews did.... They professed themselves willing -- to receive the Messiah. Yet -- they furiously rejected Him, when He was given to them by God.

"**The Papists** do the same today. They worship the mere Name of Christ.... They cannot endure the doctrine of the Gospel. Peter means here that all who do not receive Christ as revealed in the Gospel, are adversaries to God."

In First Peter 5:1f that Apostle enjoins his addressees: "The Elders which are among you, I exhort!" Peter adds: "I too am a Fellow-Elder" -- so, "feed the flock...not by constraint...**neither as being lords** over God's heritage!"

Comments Calvin:¹⁵³ "By this word ['Elders'] he means Pastors.... **Peter** similarly calls **himself** a 'Presbyter'.... If he had the right of primacy -- he would have claimed it, and this would have been most suitable on the present occasion. But although he was an Apostle -- he knew that authority over his colleagues was by no means delegated to him.... On the contrary, he was joined with the others in the sharing of the same office....

"**The Pope** makes [Romish] 'Presbyters' for the quite different purpose of daily 'slaying' Christ.... No mention is made of feeding [Christ's sheep], in **their** ordination. Let us then remember -- to distinguish the institution of **Christ** from the confusion of **the Pope**, as light from darkness."

In Second Peter 1:16-19f, that Apostle urges Christians to heed the Scripture **more** than his own traditions. Comments Calvin:¹⁵⁴ "**The Papists** are always saying that **the Church** cannot err, and they imagine that it is ruled by the Spirit even though [there the Scriptures alias] the Word has been lost. But Peter on the contrary declares that all are immersed in darkness who do not look to the light of the Word. Therefore unless you want to cast yourself of your own accord into a labyrinth, you must take the utmost care not to deviate even a hair's breadth from the direction of the Word. Even the Church can only follow God as its Guide, by observing this....

"**The Papists** are doubly stupid in concluding...that no interpretation of private individuals ought to be looked on as authentic. They pervert this testimony of Peter, to arrogate to their councils the final authority to interpret Scripture.... In so doing, they act childishly indeed....

Peter especially bids us trust the Prophets as the undoubted Oracles of God [cf. too Second Peter 3:15f].... The 'prophecy' of Scripture, means what is contained in the Holy Scriptures."

In Second Peter 2:1, that Apostle warns **the Church**: "There shall be **false-teachers** among you!" That is to say – among you '**Christians**' (to whom Peter is writing here). Comments Dr. John Calvin:¹⁵⁵ "Peter mentions no particular time when he says that 'there shall be false-teachers' – but rather includes all ages...."

"We should apply this teaching to our own time...when we see false-teachers rise up to attack the truth of God." Any resemblance of such to the **Romish** Anti-Protestants -- is therefore hardly coincidental!

Calvin's condemnations of the Papacy from his commentary on the First Epistle of John

In First John 2:18, that Apostle says to his then-contemporaries as well as to Bible-believers even today: "Little children, it is the last time.... You have heard that **Antichrist** shall come. Even now, there are many antichrists. Thereby we know that it is the last time."

Here, "antichrist" is not an all-powerful person who has still now yet arrived even at this beginning of our own 21st century. It is an evil **influence** which in John's day too was working through **many** persons. As that Apostle **then** wrote: "Even **now** there are many antichrists." Consequently, to John, there is no such a person as "**The** Antichrist."

For "antichrist" is not a modern and still less a yet-future entity -- but merely the 'spirit' of the Devil. That spirit of 'antichrist' was already defeated during the **first-century** A.D. It has continued to be crushed yet further, and progressively so, also during every subsequently century and right down till today and tomorrow.

Now that spirit of antichrist **could** appear **only** in "the **last** time"¹⁵⁶ -- namely the last time alias the **latter** days after the **former** days before Christ's incarnation; thus, the "**last**" time in which Christ Himself had appeared. For antichrist's only claim to fame was in being "ant**Christ**" or 'opposed to **Christ**[-ianity].'

Accordingly, Christ would obviously first have to appear at His incarnation -- before being able to be opposed by "**anti-Christ**." This is why the Older Testament, and Jesus, too had forecast that "antichrist" would come only after the incarnation.¹⁵⁷

Nor is "antichrist" a **specific** person. There is only one Christ -- the truly-anointed One -- *viz.* the personal Jesus. Yet "even now" during that first century A.D., wrote St. John, "there are **many** antichrists. Thereby we know that it **is** the last time" -- the last time which started after the **former** time; and which commenced with Christ's incarnation and resurrection in the same generation as the 70 A.D. destruction of Jerusalem.¹⁵⁸

The Apostle John adds about **those** antichrists: "They went out **from** us" (meaning either from us Apostles, or from us Christians). **The apostate Apostle Judas** went out from among the Apostles, in much the same way as **the apostate Pope** would later go forth from among the other Bishops.

Comments Calvin¹⁵⁹ about that last time, when John wrote those words: "**Already** various sects **had** arisen.... The Apostle not only **arms** believers lest they should waver but turns it all to another end. He tells them that **the last time** had **already** come; and therefore exhorts them to greater vigilance. As if he had said 'When various errors crop up, you must **be aroused -- not overwhelmed**'...."

"**We today** must similarly bestir ourselves! ... Under **the Papacy** there is nothing more well-known and common, than the '**future**' *sic!* coming of **Antichrist**. And yet, they [**the Papists**] are so dull that they do not see that **his** tyranny **is** exercised over **them!**"

"Indeed, entirely the same thing happens to them -- as to **the Jews**.... **The Papists** have **imagined** an **Antichrist** who **is** to harass the Church for three and a half years. Here all the marks by which the Spirit of God has pointed out **Antichrist**, appear clearly in **the Pope**.... Those who think that he would be just one man, are dreaming!"

"For **Paul, referring to a future falling away**, plainly shows that it would be a body or a kingdom (Second Thessalonians 2:3). He first **foretells** a falling away that **would spread throughout the whole Church**, as a sort of universal evil. Then he makes the head of this apostasy **the adversary of Christ, who would sit in God's Temple** and **claim...divine honours**.

"Unless we deliberately want to err, let us learn to know **Antichrist** from **Paul's** description! I have already explained that passage [see Dr. Calvin's *Commentary on Second Thessalonians 2:3f*]. It is enough now, to touch on it by the way.... **The Papists** today [are] opposing free-will to the grace of the Holy Spirit. 'This is that **Antichrist**.'" Cf. First John 2:22.

In First John 4:1-14, that Apostle declares: "Many **false-prophets** have gone out into the World.... Every spirit that keeps on confessing that Jesus Christ **has** come in the **flesh** -- is from God. But every spirit that does not keep on confessing that Jesus Christ **has** come in the flesh -- is not of God. And this is that spirit of **Antichrist** -- of which you have heard that it would come, and is even now already in the World. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them. Because greater is He Who is in you, than he that is in the World.... We have seen and keep on testifying -- that the Father **sent** the Son to be the Saviour of the World."

Thus the Apostle John here warns Christians against "**the spirit of Antichrist**.... Hereby we know the spirit of truth -- and the spirit of error."

Although **the Papacy** does profess that Jesus is the Christ and that He was incarnated, crucified and resurrected -- it is still **Antichrist**, **because** it believes in **the Mass**. For **Papists** believe that their **Mass** is an **ongoing** (re)incarnation of Jesus, and therefore a denial that He **has** come in the flesh once and for all. To that extent too, **the Papacy** is **Antichrist**.

Comments Dr. John Calvin on these words of John:¹⁶⁰ "He had spoken of **one Antichrist**. Now he mentions many. But the plural refers to **false-prophets** -- who had **already** come forth **before** their **head** appeared.....

"Whatever contests we may have against the flesh and worldliness -- **certain victory** accompanies us. Indeed, hard and fierce struggles await us one after another. But as we fight by Christ's power and are armed with God's weapons in fighting and striving -- **we are victorious**.... We can no more be conquered, than can God Himself -- Who has armed us with His Own power till the end of the world.... **Victory is certain**....

"**Today, the Papists** proudly vaunt that they are worshippers of God -- and yet, no less proudly, [they] reject God's Word.... Today, **the Papists** boast with professorial superciliousness that all their inventions are the oracles of the Spirit.... Hence, when **false spirits claim the Name of God** -- we must enquire **from the Scriptures** whether it is as they say."

Now such spirits and such **false-prophets** were "even now already...in the World" -- namely at the time the Apostle John was writing this. Yet they all foreshadowed a constant **increase**. Even till the **Romish Papacy** would **deny the finality** of Jesus Christ's **once-and-for-all** and **unrepeatable incarnation** -- precisely with its own **false doctrine of the frequentative re-enactment of the Romish Mass**.

So to Calvin,¹⁶¹ **the Papacy** is the 'man of sin.' Yet that **Antichrist** will be **destroyed** not by the sudden and final coming of Christ at the very end of history, but prior thereto: **by the gradual increase of the preaching and practising of the powerful Word of God!**

Rightly comments the *Geneva Bible* of Calvin's students Rev. John Knox and Mrs. John Calvin's brother-in-law Rev. Dr. William Whittingham -- that this Johannine Antichrist occupies a place **in the Church** (cf. **the Romish Papacy**). Furthermore, they say at First John that the Johannine Antichrist "diminishes either nature of Christ; or confounds them; or **denies** Christ **alone** saves by His **only sacrifice**" **painfully completed** on Calvary. And **such is denied** precisely by the so-called **painless sacrifice** alleged to occur ongoingly in the **Romish Mass**.

In St. John the Apostle's own day -- the apostate Judaists had now been broken off of the Older Testament. The Patristic Fathers thus saw the Johannine Antichrist as an **intra-ecclesiastical** and **intra-ecclesiastical** apostasy from the truth -- whether an apostasy of Judaists from the truth of the Older Testament together with their repudiation also of the Newer Testament, or whether a later apostasy of 'Christians' (*sic*) from the Christ of both the Older and the Newer Testaments. Many of the Mediaeval Scholars saw this apostasy as culminating in **the Pope of Rome**. Indeed, **all** authentic Protestants since then -- have always made that identification of this **apostasy**.

So this **Johannine Antichrist** was regarded as "**apostasy**" -- by Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Hippolytus, Augustine, Primasius, Gregory the Great, and Haymo. This **Johannine Antichrist** was regarded pre-eminently as "**the Papacy**" -- by Robert Greathead, Joachim, P.J. d' Olivi, Ubertino of Casale, Eberhard of Salzburg, the Waldensians, Michael of Cesena, John of Rupescissa, John Milicz, John Wycliffe, John Purvey, Walter Brute, John Huss, and Savonarola.

This is the position too of **every Protestant Reformer** and every single authentic Post-Reformation Protestant without exception. Thus, *e.g.*: Luther, Melancthon, Osiander, Amsdorff, Funck, Virgil Solis, Nigrinus, Chytraeus, Oecolampadius, Bullinger, Ridley, Latimer, Cranmer, Bale, Jewel, John Calvin, Knox, Napier, Brightman, Pareus, Downham, James the First, Mede, More, **all** the divines of the Westminster Assembly, Tillinghast, Sherwin, Jurieu, Cocceius, Fleming, Sir Isaac Newton, Lowth, Bishop Thomas Newton, Fletcher, Bengel, Petri, Willison, Brown, and Fairbairn *etc.*

Calvinian condemnations of the Papacy from their view of John's Book of Revelation

John Calvin died when but fifty-five, in 1564. He did not live long enough to write a commentary on the Book of Revelation. However, as just seen in his *Commentary on the First Epistle of John* -- Calvin saw that this Apostle there clearly predicted the later coming of the **Papal Antichrist**. So he would have expected also the same John's Book of Revelation to do the same. Moreover, in his own *Dedication to his most serene highness Edward the Sixth the most Christian Prince, King of England...[and] Ireland* (in his 1551 [*Commentary on*] *The First and Second Epistles of Peter*) -- Dr. Calvin does seem to connect Revelation 16:13f specifically with **the Papacy**.

For there, he refers¹⁶² to "the satellites of **the Roman Antichrist**.... What, I pray, was that recent rabble at Trent...but a sort of empty apparition which did not disturb the pleasures of **the Pope** any more than the sound of the trumpets...with which he daily amuses himself.... Who can believe that **a Pope** could be terrified by such fictitious councils as that of Trent?... From all [of] the caves of **monks**, there **will** come forth a great conflux of **frogs**...who by their eager croaking will banish far away every truth [*cf. Revelation 16:13f*]....

"It cannot possibly be hoped that an Assembly which is assembled under the authority of **Antichrist** will be governed by the Spirit.... **The Pope** -- who is the professed and sworn enemy of Christ -- would occupy **the chief place** of authority." Thus Calvin.

Moreover, Dr. Calvin's **historicalistic** view of predictive prophecy -- very clearly documented in his commentaries on Daniel and First Thessalonians and First John -- would surely be reflected in his understanding also of the last twenty-two chapters of Holy Scripture. Indeed, that very view is reflected clearly -- also in Calvin's *Tracts and Treatises*; and, too, in many of his *Letters*.

Furthermore, his Calvin-istic students Rev. John Knox and Rev. Dr. William Whittingham (Mrs. John Calvin's brother-in-law) clearly reflect that view, in their translation of the Book of Revelation -- in the 1560 *Geneva Bible*. Too, certainly this was the view also of the Calvin-istic *Westminster Standards*.

For the *Westminster Confession* cites Revelation 13:1 & 17:15-17 in denying to "**the Pope** any power" over civil magistrates "if he shall judge them to be hereticks" -- and cites also Revelation 13:6 to prove that nothing other than "**the Pope of Rome**...is that **Antichrist**...that exalteth himself in the Church against

Christ.” Indeed, the *Westminster Directory for the Publick Worship of God* says Christians should pray for “**the fall of Antichrist** and...for the deliverance of the distressed **churches abroad** from the tyranny of the **antichristian faction**.”¹⁶³

Dr. John Calvin’s optimism as to the soon downfall of the Papal Antichrist

Calvin was optimistic as to the soon downfall of **the Papacy**; and certain about its demise in God’s good time. Thus, in 1536 he wrote to Francis Daniel:¹⁶⁴ “Already, in many places, the idols and altars of **Popery** have begun to disappear.... I hope it will not be long -- before all remaining superstition shall effectually be cleared away. May the Lord grant that idolatry may be uprooted entirely out of the hearts of all!”

Memorable too is John Calvin’s statement to his own French Monarch, in his 1536 *Letter to King Francis (an inveterate Romanist)*. “Our doctrine must stand sublime above all the glory of the World, and **invincible** by its power. Because it is not ours, but that of the living God and His Anointed Whom the Father has appointed King so that He may rule from sea to sea and from the rivers even to the ends of the Earth -- and **so** rule as to smite the whole Earth and its strength of iron and brass, its splendour of gold and silver, with the mere rod of His Mouth; and **break them in pieces like a potter’s vessel** according to the magnificent **predictions** of the Prophets regarding His Kingdom. Daniel 2:34; Isaiah 11:4; Psalm 2:9.”¹⁶⁵

Dr. Calvin tells Cardinal Sadolet that the Papal Antichrist was as bad as the Anabaptists

Also in Calvin’s 1539 *Reply to Cardinal Sadolet’s Letter to the People of Geneva*, he referred¹⁶⁶ to the latter’s “having once shaken off the yoke of the Roman Pontiff.” Sadoletto had enquired if “they would submit to have it again imposed upon them.”

In his response, Dr. Calvin answered:¹⁶⁷ “We are assailed by two sects.... What similitude is there in appearance -- between **the Pope** and the **Anabaptists**? ... Satan never transforms himself so cunningly, as not in some measure to betray himself. The principal weapon with which they both assail us, is the same. For when they boast extravagantly of **the Spirit** -- the tendency certainly is to sink and bury the Word of God so that they may make room for their own **falsehoods**....

“We maintain that **the Roman Pontiff**, with his whole herd of pseudo-bishops who have seized upon the pastor’s office, are ravening wolves.... In all places where the tyranny of **the Roman Pontiff** prevails, you scarcely see as many stray and tattered vestiges as will enable you to perceive that there churches lie half-buried. Nor should you think this absurd. Since Paul tells you (Second Thessalonians 2:4) that **Antichrist** would have his seat in no other place than in the midst of **God’s Sanctuary**. Ought not this single warning to put us on our guard against tricks and devices which may be practised in the name of **the Church**?”

Calvin tells the Papist Theology Professors in Paris that the Papacy is very Antichrist

In 1542, all the unreformed Papist Professors of Theology at the University of Paris drew up their *Articles Agreed Upon by the Faculty of Sacred Theology of Paris in Reference to Matters of Faith at Present Controverted*. Calvin responded immediately, by republishing those *Articles* together with an ironical or sarcastic ‘proof’ which he attached to each of them -- in his own *Antidote*.

The Papist Professors claimed¹⁶⁸ that according to Pope Innocent (1198-1216), “confession should be made to one’s own priest.” Dr. Calvin responded:¹⁶⁹ “It is even certain that **before** Innocent the Third, **no** necessity of confession was imposed on Christian people. For his decree, made at the Lateran Council, is extant (*Can. Omnis utriusque sexus*). Therefore, for about twelve hundred years the Christian Church had no knowledge of the dogma that to repentance auricular confession was essentially requisite.”

The Papist Professors claimed too:¹⁷⁰ “Every Christian is bound to believe that, in...the Eucharist, the bread and wine are converted into the true body and blood of Christ.” Calvin responded:¹⁷¹ “This is the authoritative decision of a General Council held by Hildebrand” (Pope from 1061-73). “Understand, however, that should the Sacrament chance to be gnawed by worms or moths or corrupted in any other way, in that case the substance of bread must have returned miraculously!”

The Papist Professors also claimed:¹⁷² “Every Christian is bound to believe that there is on Earth one universal Visible Church incapable of erring in faith and manners.... In things which relate to faith and manners, all the faithful are bound to obey” -- viz., in subservience to **the Pope**.

Calvin responded:¹⁷³ “The Hierarchy is the infallible sign of the Church. Now, Hierarchy is at all times visible.... **[Romish]** Doctors differ as to the second in succession from Peter -- some setting down Clement, others Linus [A.D. 67-100]....

“The election of Pope Joan [around 850-855], is a greater difficulty.... The same thing is to be said of a time of schism -- as when Gregory and John and Peter were **Antipopes** [1378-1417]....

“We know, from the prophecy of Paul, that defection was **predicted**. Second Thessalonians 2:3.... Let those who tie down the Church..., hear what [the A.D. 315-368] Hilary says on that subject: ‘We do wrong in venerating the Church of God in roofs and edifices. Is it doubtful that in these, **Antichrist** will sit?’”

The French Papist Professors further claimed:¹⁷⁴ “In the Church Militant there is, by divine right, a Supreme Pontiff whom all Christians are bound to obey.” Calvin responded:¹⁷⁵ “Scripture often mentions Christ the Universal Head, but nowhere mentions the ‘**Pope**’.... [The 590-603 Bishop of Rome] Gregory execrates the name of ‘Universal Bishop’ as profane, nay, **blasphemous** and the forerunner of **Antichrist** -- terming it an invention of the Devil. *Epist. 76 ad Maur.*; *Epist. 78 ad Const.*; *Augustin. Sequenti ad Euodium.*”

Rev. Prof. Dr. Calvin exposes the 1534-1549 Pope Paul III and his 1545f Council of Trent

Two years before the death of Luther, Dr. John Calvin wrote in his 1544 essay *The Necessity of Reforming the Church*: “**The Roman Pontiff** is now opposing himself to the reviving doctrines of the Gospel.... I deny that See to be ‘apostolical’- wherein nought is seen but a shocking apostasy. I deny him to be the ‘Vicar of Christ’ who, in furiously persecuting the Gospel, demonstrates by his conduct that he is Antichrist....

“I deny him to be the successor of St. Peter, who is doing his utmost to demolish every edifice that Peter built. And I deny him to be the ‘head’ of the Church -- who by his tyranny lacerates and dismembers the Church, after dis severing her from Christ her true and only Head.”¹⁷⁶

Also in the year 1544 Pope Paul III (Alessandro Farnese), then a very old man, wrote *A Paternal Admonition by the Roman Pontiff Paul III to the Most Invincible Emperor Charles V.*¹⁷⁷ Dr. John Calvin immediately replied to that arch-hypocritical and highly-immoral Paul Farnese -- in his own *Remarks on the Letter of Pope Paul III*.

Observed Calvin:¹⁷⁸ “If the ‘Most Holy Father’ trembles at that example of the divine vengeance -- it is strange why he...slumbers so secure over the countless villainies of his own sons.... The Apostle Paul enjoins that the sons of a Christian pastor be well behaved, and well-trained in the fear of the Lord. First Timothy 3:4. One Paul Farnese has a son; and, by him, grandsons -- besides **bastards** who still spring from the old dotard and his half-rotten carcass....

“Italy never produced **such** a monster before.... If Eli was punished for indulgence [First Samuel 2:31] -- will you [Paul Farnese] pass with impunity, when you not only in silence connive at the horrid crimes of your sons but lend them a helping hand? When it is certain you openly approve -- and, as to a great part, admit without disguise that they perpetrate them at **your** instigation....

“Once, indeed, the specious gloss of **the Romish harlot** was the boasted unity of the Church. But it has now been worn off by long use....

“**Roman Antichrist** invites us [back] to himself, under the pretence of unity! -- and pronounces all to be ‘schismatics’ who do not spontaneously submit to be harnessed to the yoke of his tyranny.... Though Rome be a sink of wickedness scarcely better than hell itself; though the ‘holy papal clergy’ with loosened reins breaking though all laws, casting off all sense of honour, prostitute themselves to every kind of impiety; though the whole World be fearfully corrupt -- there will nevertheless be a well-ordered ‘discipline’ [*sic!*] -- provided nothing is attempted against the ‘majesty’ of **the Roman See**....

“Please -- what ‘God’ ever appointed **the Pope** examiner, arbiter and judge of all causes relating to the Church or to the Faith? ... They charge home upon **the Pope** himself the guilt not only of impiety and wickedness of every kind, but prove him to be **Antichrist**, the head of all the wicked....

“Protestants are out of a church – but it is **the Popish Church**.... If it be true that wherever the pure truth of Christ...exists, there too the real unity of the Church exists -- Protestants assuredly are not aliens from the **Church**....

“The more mildly any Emperor conducted himself, the more arrogantly **the Roman Antichrists** took advantage of his disposition.... The Greeks...carried their pride to such a height, that they were the first to aspire to that tyranny over the whole Church which **the Pope** now usurps.... In the opinion of Gregory (your ‘predecessor’)...., any man who should make himself ‘Universal Bishop’ -- were he Roman or not -- was wicked, impious, sacrilegious, the vicar of Satan and the forerunner of **Antichrist**....

“**You**, the ‘Vicegerent’ of Christ! You, whose every thought and wish and action are directed to the extinction of Christ! ... You, the ‘Vicegerent’ of Christ whom now the very children all know to be **very Antichrist!** ... We see a high priest of all impiety; a standard-bearer of Satan; a fierce tyrant; a cruel murderer of souls -- in short, the ‘son of perdition’ whom the Apostle describes [in Second Thessalonians 2:3f].

“Protestants complain that...**the Pope...is Antichrist**.... Is not the Pope ‘superior’ to laws [*cf.* Daniel 7:25]? Nay, what are laws to him?....

“Of this we have a signal proof in the case of **John Huss**, whom the Romans -- after alluring him to Constance by a safe-conduct -- cruelly murdered.... The decree was framed by the ‘holy fathers’ that faith is not to be kept with ‘heretics’

“But we are **now** in another age! The World, which was then blind, has opened its eyes. In the minds of the Germans there still resides a remembrance of the foul act, warning them to beware of ever again joining themselves as associates in **Roman perfidy!**”

In 1545, Pope Paul III’s Rome published her *Acts of the Council of Trent*. In 1547, Rev. Dr. John Calvin responded with his work *The Antidote*.

There, he observes:¹⁷⁹ “How few are those who now defend **the Papacy** under the pretext of zeal for **the Church**, who do not desire the liberty of the Christian people to be so crushed that no one may dare a whisper about correcting the vices of the Church.... It is painful that both the doctrine and the whole administration of **the Papacy** -- are so much at variance with the majority of ancient Councils, that nothing more opposite can be imagined....

“A striking illustration has been given us in the Council of Trent.... If you take away the name of ‘Council’ -- **the whole Papacy** will confess that all the bishops who attended, were nothing but dregs.... The appellation of ‘Universal Bishop’ (if conferred on a man) -- [Rome’s 590-603 first ‘Universal Pope’] Gregory everywhere testifies to be blasphemous, nefarious, accursed, and the forerunner of **Antichrist!**”

Calvin's 1547 True Method of Giving Peace to Christendom and of Reforming the Church

In 1547, *The Interim or Declaration of Religion* was glibly issued by the so-called "Holy Roman Empire's" King Charles V of Germany. Its purpose was to try to effect a compromise between Romanists and Protestants within his realm.

Dr. Calvin promptly branded it as '*The Adultero-German Interim.*' Then he promptly challenged it with his own response -- *The True Method of Giving Peace to Christendom and of Reforming the Church.*

In that work, Calvin observes:¹⁸⁰ "It is well known to what end men are ordained in **the Papacy** -- viz., in order to sacrifice' I wholly deny that **the papal priesthood** is founded on a divine call.... When our glossing 'mediators' insinuate a 'Perpetual Succession' [of priests] -- we must again withstand their craftiness. They insist that all presbyters are to be deemed legitimate who have been ordained by horned bishops -- and they exclude all from the ministry who have not been ordained by their hands....

"How often in many places has their 'Succession' been interrupted? Over how many Churches do their histories tell that **heretics** presided? Almost all Germany twice before our day abandoned the Roman See -- once when Presbyters were forced to put away their wives; and a second time when Gregory VII [1073-87], in his hostility to the Emperor Henry IV, sought to withdraw the Germans from him by fulminating at them....

"Who, moderately versant in history, does not know that three Antipopes distracted the Church by their factions? Two of them at least appointed several bishops and those again ordained presbyters. Where is the continuous Succession? But omitting these, it will be necessary to leap over **Popess Joan** [around A.D. 850], if they would continue their series from the Apostles....

"I shall always maintain that there is not an individual among **the whole Popish clergy** who is not schismatical. They all derive their origin from Eugenius [1431-39f], whom the Council not only **deposed from the Papacy** but condemned with all his followers, as guilty of heresy and schism.... I deny that there is truly one bishop under **the whole Papacy**....

"The Papacy is much further distant from that mode of government which the Apostles recommend to us, than tyranny.... In a well-ordered Church, none are to be admitted to the office of teaching but those who have been called by the ordinary pastors. But what is this to **the Papacy**, unless the power of Christ be transferred to **Antichrist**?"

Finally, not to be forgotten is Dr. Calvin's 1550 *Dedication [of the Commentary of the Prophet Isaiah] to his Serene Highness Edward Sixth, King of England, &c.* There, the genius of Geneva and greatest of all Protestant Reformers stoutly insists:¹⁸¹ "We see how at this very day the **Roman Antichrist** -- far and wide usurping and tyrannizing over the Sanctuary of God -- tears, crushes and tramples under his feet all that belonged to God."

The later Calvinistic Confessions and Standards on the Papacy as Antichrist

Now the above views of John Calvin are all faithfully reflected in the various *Confessions* and *Standards* of the Calvinistic Presbyterian Churches which follow him. Those *Standards* include: the French, Belgic and Scots *Confessions*; the 'U-L-I-P' *Decrees of the international Synod of Dordt* in Holland; and the doctrinal *Standards* of the British Westminster Assembly.

The *French Confession* of 1559, written by Dr. Calvin and his pupil Jean de Chandieu, states:¹⁸² "We believe...that all imaginations of men concerning the intercession of dead saints, are an abuse and a device of **Satan**.... Purgatory is an illusion proceeding from the same shop from which have sprung also monastic vows..., indulgences, and all such things....

"We condemn **the papal assemblies**.... All superstitions and idolatrics are in them.... Some trace of the Church is left in **the Papacy**, and the...and substance of baptism remains.... But, on account of its corruptions -- we cannot present children to be baptized in **it**, without incurring pollution."

Calvin's views were expounded in Britain especially by his student John Knox -- together with the rest of the 'six Johns' -- in the 1560 *First Scots Confession*. There,¹⁸³ the Protestants' "True Kirk is distinguished from the filthy synagogues" of **Romanism** alias "the **horrible harlot**; the **false kirk**." Especially against the latter, the *Scots Confession* sounds the trumpet blast: "Arise, O Lord, and let Thy enemies be confounded.... Give Thy servants strength to speak Thy Word in boldness, and let all nations cleave to Thy true knowledge!"

The 1562 *Belgic Confession* of the Dutch Presbyterian Churches teaches¹⁸⁴ that "the True Church must be distinguished from all sects which call themselves the Church.... The True Church may certainly be known, from which no man has a right to separate himself.... As for **the false church** -- she ascribes more power and authority to herself and her ordinances than to the Word of God, and will not submit herself to the yoke of Christ. Neither does she administer the Sacraments as appointed by Christ in His Word, but adds to and takes from them.... She relieth more upon men than upon Christ, and persecutes those who live holily according to the Word of God and rebuke her for her errors, covetousness, and idolatry!"

The *Second Scots Confession* of 1580 declares¹⁸⁵ that "we abhor and detest all contrary religion and doctrine; but chiefly all kind of **Papistry** in general and particular heads -- even as they are now damned and confuted by the Word of God and Kirk of Scotland. But in special, we detest and refuse the usurped authority of that **Roman Antichrist**, upon the Scriptures of God."

We detest and refuse: "all his tyrannous laws made upon indifferent things against our Christian liberty; his erroneous doctrines...; his five bastard sacraments; with his rites, ceremonies, and false doctrine...; his cruel judgment against infants departing without the Sacrament...; his blasphemous opinion of transubstantiation...; his cruelty against the innocent divorced; his devilish Mass; his blasphemous priesthood; his profane sacrifice for the sins of the dead...; his canonisation of men, calling upon angels or departed saints; worshipping of images, relicks, and crosses...; his purgatory, [and] prayers for the dead."

It then further condemns Rome's "praying or speaking in a strange language; his processions and blasphemous litany; his multitude of advocates or mediators...with auricular confessions...; his holy water, baptizing of bells..., [and] his erroneous...[1545f] Decrees made at Trent...against the Kirk of God...or against the Word of God and doctrine of this True Reformed Kirk.... Seeing that many are stirred up by Satan and that **Roman Antichrist** to...use the holy Sacraments in the Kirk deceitfully..., to corrupt and subvert secretly God's true religion within the Kirk...under vain hope of **the Pope's dispensation** devised against the Word of God to his greater confusion and their double condemnation in the day of the Lord Jesus -- we therefore, willing to take away all suspicion of hypocrisy and of such double dealing with God and His Kirk, protest!"

At the 1618-19 International Synod, the famous Preamble to the *Decrees of Dordt* speaks about the Reformed Church of the Protestant Reformation. It declares that also in the Netherlands¹⁸⁶ "the Church was delivered by the mighty hand of God from the tyranny of **the Romish Antichrist** and the terrible idolatry of the Papacy!"

Finally, we come to the Westminster Standards -- as the last great statement of Biblical truth from the Protestant and Calvinistic perspective. According to the Westminster Assembly's *Westminster Confession of Faith*,¹⁸⁷ "**popish monastical vows** of perpetual single life, professed poverty, and regular obedience, are...sinful snares in which no Christian [whatsoever] should entangle himself."

Again:¹⁸⁸ "It is the duty of people to pray for magistrates.... Much less hath **the Pope** any power or jurisdiction over them in their dominions, or over any of their people; and least of all to deprive them of their dominion or lives, if he should judge them to be hereticks or upon any other pretence whatsoever. Second Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13:15-17. Note that the *Confession* here cites the '666' passage Revelation 13:15-17 (*cf.* v. 18) -- with reference specifically to the Papacy!

Once more:¹⁸⁹ "Such as profess the true reformed religion, should not marry with infidels, **Papists**, or other idolaters. Neither should such as are godly be unequally yoked, by marrying with such as are notoriously wicked in their life, or maintain damnable heresies. Second Corinthians 6:14."

As to deformed churches, the *Confession* further states¹⁹⁰ -- that some have so degenerated, as to become **synagogues of Satan**. Revelation 18:2; Romans 11:18-22.... **The Pope of Rome**...is that **Antichrist**...that exalteth himself in the Church against Christ and all that is called God. Matthew 23:8-10; Second Thessalonians 2:3-4,8-9; Revelation 13:6." Here, one should carefully note the application of Second Thessalonians 2:3-9 and Revelation 13:6 & 18:2 specifically to **the papal Church** and its **Pontiff!**

Moreover:¹⁹¹ "The **popish sacrifice** of the 'Mass' -- as they call it -- is most abominably injurious to Christ's one only sacrifice, the alone propitiation for all the sins of the elect. Hebrews 7:23-27; 10:11-18. Private masses..., worshipping the elements, the lifting them up or carrying them about for adoration..., are all contrary to the nature of this Sacrament and to the institution of Christ. First Corinthians 10:6; Mark 14:23; First Corinthians 11:25-29; Matthew 15:9....

"The doctrine which maintains a change of the substance of bread and wine into the substance of Christ's body and blood (commonly called '**transubstantiation**') by consecration of a priest or by any other way -- is **repugnant** not to Scripture alone but even to common sense and reason; overthroweth the nature of the Sacrament; and hath been and [still] is the cause of **manifold superstitions**, yea, of **gross idolatries**. Acts 3:21; First Corinthians 11:24-26; Luke 24:6,39."

In the **Calvin-istic Public Prayer Before the Sermon** in the 1645 *Westminster Assembly's Directory for the Publick Worship of God*, "the Minister who is to **preach**, is to endeavour to get his own and his hearers' hearts rightly to be affected...and...**to pray for the propagation of the Gospel and Kingdom of Christ to all nations**; for the **conversion of the Jews**; the **fulness of the Gentiles**; the **fall of Antichrist**; and...for the deliverance of the distressed churches abroad from the tyranny of the **antichristian faction**" etc.¹⁹²

Almost every chapter of the Presbyterian *Westminster Confession* is, implicitly at least, in some or other way at variance with the doctrines of Romanism. In particular, the above-quoted citations of this Presbyterian Confession, *via* the Presbyterian *Ordination Vow*,¹⁹³ require quite all Presbyterian Ministers and Elders firmly and constantly to adhere to, and to assert and to defend **all** of the above doctrines to the utmost of their power.

Summary of Calvin and Calvinism on the Papacy as Antichrist

We now give a short summary of the above. Here, briefly, we list the teachings of Holy Scripture; John Calvin; and Calvinistic Protestantism.

1. About 540 B.C., Daniel predicted the cessation of all new prophesying -- in the generation at the time of Christ's death. This, Daniel associated with the Roman destruction of the Jerusalem temple. Daniel 2:34-45; 7:7-19; 8:9-12,20-25; 9:24-27; 11:30-45; 12:1-4.
2. Daniel also predicted that, beginning in 70 A.D., first the Pagan Roman Empire and then papal Rome as its successor -- would pollute God's true temple (the Christian Church). That would last for 1260 day-years, or till 1330 A.D. However, then that horrific plague called the 'Black Death' -- far worse than our modern *AIDS pandemic* -- would sweep across the civilized world, killing most of its ungodly inhabitants. Daniel 7:24f & 12:7 -- cf. Revelation 9:20f; 11:2-9f; 12:6-14; 13:1-7.
3. Daniel further predicted that the pollution of the Christian Church, starting in 70 A.D., would begin to cease after 1290 day-years. The latter would occur thirty years after the 1260 years -- and hence in 1360f A.D. Daniel 12:11 cf. 7:25 & 12:7. That was when God raised up John Wycliffe in the middle of the 'Black Death' -- with which He punished a deformed Church. See Revelation 9:20f & 11:2-9f. Cf. the much lesser pandemic of *AIDS* today. Revelation 15:1 to 18:4.

4. Daniel last predicted that a further time of great blessing would start to occur at the end of 1335 day-years after 70 A.D. Daniel 12:4-12. This would occur when Rev. John Huss started preaching Wycliffe's Proto-Protestant views in Bohemia, in 1405 A.D. Cf. Revelation 14:6f. Only quite some time yet thereafter, God told Daniel, would he himself be resurrected -- "at the end of the days." Daniel 12:13.
5. The appearance of Christ at His incarnation, elicited opposition from several minor antichrists. Matthew 23:2-36 & John 17:12. The Apostle John predicted that these 'antichrists' had already emerged, even before the Holy Scriptures were finally completed. First John 2:18f & 4:1-3, and II John 7. Yet that same John also insisted that the Pagan Roman Empire would **later** be replaced by another 'religious' Roman Beast. That latter would look like a lamb, but speak like a dragon. See Revelation 13:1-11f cf. Daniel 7:7-25. Indeed, the Apostle Paul too predicted a great apostasy and the emergence of 'the man of sin' -- who would rule in the temple alias the very Church of God. Second Thessalonians 2:3-8.
6. Probably from even before, and certainly from not long after 70 A.D., Britain in particular and much of Europe in general started becoming Christian alias Proto-Protestant. Especially around the fifth century, the Roman Empire broke up into ten "horns" or kingdoms -- followed by another diverse and blasphemous "horn." Daniel 2:41f; 7:7,20,25; Revelation 13:1-18; 17:3-16. From around 600 A.D. onward, only the bishop at Rome was called '**pope**' (alias 'holy father'). The first papal missionary to Britain, the 600th A.D. Austin of Rome, was then stoutly resisted by the Culdee or Proto-Protestant British Celtic Christians. Only after the 664 Synod of Whitby, from about 666 A.D. onward, did most of Europe and some of England -- but not Ireland, Scotland and Wales -- become increasingly romanized. Thus, the Romish papal power or "horn" became strong or "stout" -- and long sat and ruled in the temple of God, while claiming to be His spokesman. However, that spokesman was in fact 'the man of sin' -- alias **Antichrist**. Daniel 7:25; 8:20-25; 11:36f; 12:8-11; Second Thessalonians 2:8-12; Second Pet. 2:1-5f; Revelation 13:1-18; 17:1-17.
7. In fulfilment of the prophecies, the Lord in 1330 A.D. sent that great plague called the 'Black Death.' Daniel 12:11 cf. Revelation 9:20f; 11:2-9f; 12:6-14. One major purpose of this, was to punish the deformed Church which had departed from God's Word; which had exalted the pope; and which had worshipped communion bread as if it were to have become the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Daniel 7:24f & 12:11 cf. Revelation 13:1-13f; 15:1-8; 16:1-11.
8. Thirty years later, in 1360 A.D., God raised up John Wycliffe. He asserted the sole-sufficiency of the long-completed Holy Scriptures. Accordingly, he ridiculed transubstantiation -- and assailed the **Pope as Antichrist**. Daniel 12:11f & Revelation 14:6f.
9. Forty-five years later, at the end of 1335 years after 70 A.D., God further raised up John Huss in Bohemia. He promoted Wycliffe's Proto-Protestant views, and inaugurated a time of great blessing in the very heart of Europe. Daniel 12:12 cf. Rev. 14:8f.
10. In 1415, Rome burned Huss (the "goose") for his Biblical views. This was just after he had announced that, though the "unclean birds" of **the Papacy** were then roasting a 'goose' -- after a hundred years, a 'swan' would arise to vindicate him. Cf. Revelation 14:8f & 18:1-2.
11. A century after Huss, God raised up the "swan" -- Martin Luther! He powerfully propagated the views of Wycliffe and Huss, that **the Pope was Antichrist**. He also predicted the **destruction** of that papal antichrist through the powerful **preaching of the Gospel**. These doctrines of the Protestant Reformation were soon reflected in the *Thirty-nine Articles* of the Church of England, which state: that "transubstantiation...is repugnant to the plain words of Scripture...and hath given occasion to many superstitions"; that "the sacrifices of Masses...were fables and dangerous deceits"; and that "the bishop of Rome hath no jurisdiction in this Realm of England" (arts. 28, 31 & 37).
12. Said Rev. Dr. Martin Luther against **the Papal Antichrist**: "We must slay him with words; the mouth of Christ must do it... See what effect this...**preaching** and writing this truth has had; how the Papists **cover has shrunk**.... Let us be wise, thank God for **His Holy Word**, and **be bold** with **our mouths**.... Let us be bold: earnestly inculcate the Word; and drive out the laws of men.... This is the way Christ is, **through us**, slaying the Papacy."¹⁹⁴ "Christ is with His saints -- and wins **the victory**!"¹⁹⁵

13. John Calvin took over and systematized Luther's Biblical views. Calvin calls Luther "my much respected father" who had denounced "the darkness of the Papacy."¹⁹⁶ Calvin himself then further repeatedly exposed the **Roman Pontiff as Antichrist**.

14. Calvin indicates that though the 600 A.D. Gregory the Great was the first bishop at Rome to be called Sole Pope, Gregory himself had regarded that new title -- as a mark of **Antichrist**.¹⁹⁷ Yet Dr. Calvin sees especially the 1415 papal burning of Huss -- as a clear evidence of the antichristian nature of the Papacy.¹⁹⁸ On Daniel 12:4, Dr. Calvin commented in 1561: "At the present time, in **the Papacy...impiety prevails!**"¹⁹⁹

15. Dr. Calvin especially insists that both Second Thessalonians 2:3f and First John (2:18 & 4:4f), clearly brand **the Pope as Antichrist**. Romanists, says Calvin, were wrong to regard Antichrist as a yet-future tyrant who would harass the church for but three and a half years. For even a boy of ten, states Calvin, can see that the centuries-long **Papacy is itself indeed Antichrist**. Yet even that **Papal "Antichrist** will be annihilated by the Word of the Lord.... Paul does **not** think that Christ will accomplish this **in a moment...** Christ will scatter the darkness...**before** His coming"; by "the **preaching** of this doctrine.... **We** fight by Christ's power and are armed with God's weapons.... We are **victorious**.... We can no more be conquered than can God Himself.... Victory is **certain!**"²⁰⁰

16. Calvin's views were expounded in Britain especially by his student John Knox -- together with the rest of the six Johns -- in the 1560 *First Scots Confession*. There,²⁰¹ the Protestants' "True Kirk is distinguished from the filthy synagogues" of **Romanism** or "the **horrible harlot; the false kirk**." Especially against the latter, the *Scots Confession* sounds the trumpet blast: "Arise, O Lord, and let Thy enemies be confounded.... Give Thy servants strength to speak Thy Word in boldness, and let all nations cleave to Thy true knowledge!"

17. The Calvinistic *Second Scots Confession* of 1580, also widely known as the *Scottish National Covenant*, roundly denounces "all kinds of **Papistry** in general.... We detest and refuse the usurped authority of that **Roman Antichrist**.... Many are stirred up by Satan and that **Roman Antichrist** to...subvert secretly God's true religion.... We therefore...protest!"²⁰²

18. Indeed, this **Protest-ant** 'protest' was effective. For the Preamble to the 1618ff international Calvinistic *Decrees of Dordt* states that also in the Netherlands, "the Church was delivered by the mighty hand of God from the tyranny of the **Romish Antichrist** and the terrible idolatry of the Papacy."²⁰³ True Christians were leaving Romanism. Revelation 18:2-4!

19. The 1646 Calvinistic *Westminster Confession of Faith* denounces "popish monastical vows."²⁰⁴ It denies "**the Pope** any power or jurisdiction" over magistrates²⁰⁶ -- citing here not only Second Thessalonians 2:4, but also the '666' passage Revelation 13:15-17. It calls "**Papists...idolaters**."²⁰⁵ It describes "**the popish sacrifice** of the '**Mass**'....[as] most abominably injurious to Christ's one sacrifice." Indeed, it terms "**transubstantiation...repugnant** not to Scripture alone, but even to common sense and reason" and to be "the cause of manifold superstitions [and] gross idolatries."²⁰⁶

20. Specifically, the *Westminster Confession* further insists about deformed churches²⁰⁷ that "some have so degenerated as to become **synagogues of Satan**. Revelation 18:2 [&] Romans 11:18-22. "The **Pope of Rome**...is that **Antichrist**...that exalteth himself in the Church against Christ and all that is called God. Matthew 23:8-10; Second Thessalonians 2:3-4,8-9; Revelation 13:6."

21. Finally, the Calvinistic *Westminster Larger Catechism* insists that, in the Lord's Prayer, the petition "Thy Kingdom come!" is a plea for the destruction also of the ecclesiastical **Antichrist** -- and indeed precisely through the good works of the Spirit-empowered Church as Jesus Christ's own spirit-ual weapon. "We pray that the kingdom of sin and Satan may be destroyed -- the Gospel propagated throughout the World, the Jews called, the fullness of the Gentiles brought in, [and] **the Church** furnished with all Gospel-officers and...**purged from corruption**."²⁰⁸ Further, "we pray that **God would so over-rule the World and all in it**...[so] that our sanctification and salvation may be perfected [and] **Satan trodden [down] under our feet**. Romans 16:20!"²⁰⁹

Conclusion to Calvin and Calvinism on the Papacy as Antichrist

Let it not fatuously be maintained that the Papacy has improved since Calvin's day! In many ways, it is today even worse. Thus in 1852, she proclaimed the immaculate conception of Mary as an essential doctrine; in 1870, the infallibility of the Pope; and in 1952, the bodily assumption of Mary.

Also Pope John Paul II has, against Holy Scripture, disapproved of capital punishment for capital crimes; looked favourably at the false theory assuming the bodily evolution of man from pre-human living creatures; and in A.D. 2000, publically kissed even the Koran. Clearly, **Papacy** is **apostasy**!

Of course, we should never equate the Papacy with Roman Catholic-ism, and still less with Roman Catholics! Some Roman Catholics are indeed Christians. Those who are, should -- as did Luther and Calvin -- leave the **Papal Church**.

For the *Westminster Confession* 25:4-6, in respect of the "**Catholick Church...less pure**," refers to "Revelation 18:2" and **synagogues of Satan** and **the Pope of Rome** and "**that Antichrist...in the Church**." Indeed, Revelation 18:2-4 (*cf.* 17:5f) declares that "'**Babylon**' ...has become...a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." However, it also says to the 'clean birds' inside that 'Babylonian' cage **come out of her, My people**, so that you do not keep on partaking of her sins -- and so that you do not receive of her plagues!" See too Isaiah 52:8-11 and Second Corinthians 6:16-18.

Now the **cleansing of the Papal Church** and the **downfall of her Antichrist** are both certain to occur, before the end of World History. For the petition "Thy Kingdom come!" in the Lord's Prayer is well explained by the Presbyterian Church' *Westminster Larger Catechism*.²¹⁰ It means "we pray that the kingdom of sin and Satan may be destroyed, the Gospel propagated throughout the World, the Jews called, the fulness of the Gentiles brought in, [and] **the Church** furnished with all Gospel-officers and...**purged from corruption**. Malachi 1:11 & Zephaniah 3:9." See further also Romans 11:12-32.

Again, at the end of the Lord's Prayer,²¹¹ "we pray that **God would so over-rule the World and all in it**...that our sanctification and salvation may be perfected [and] **Satan trodden under our feet**. Romans 16:20." For "we, by faith, are **emboldened** to plead with Him that He **would**. Second Chronicles 20:6-11,"²¹² *cf.* vv. 15-27.

And that is why, in the words of the *Westminster Directory for the Publick Worship of God*, that Protestants should "pray for the propagation of the Gospel and Kingdom of Christ to all nations [including the Italians *etc.*]; for the conversion of the Jews; the fullness of the Gentiles; **the fall of Antichrist**; and...for the deliverance of the distressed churches abroad from the tyranny of the **antichristians faction**." Indeed, such should be prayed in "Publick Prayer before the Sermon."²¹³

During the course of history, and especially when the doctrines of the Protestant Reformation are preached with fire in the years ahead, **the Papacy will be demolished**. The Papacy is strong today, only because Protestantism is currently weak. But when the Protestant Church repents; when it gets refilled with the Spirit; and when it once again fearlessly proclaims both God's Law and the Gospel of Christ -- then, **the Papacy will come tumbling down!**

For all nations shall come and worship before the Lord. The kingdom of the beast shall yet become full of darkness. The kings of the Earth themselves shall desolate the whore of Rome. God's people will leave the papal Babylon. And that cage of unclean birds will be demolished by the Protestants' powerful preaching of the Word of God.²¹⁴ Let us then arise, and follow Him!

ENDNOTES

- 1) J. Calvin: *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Beveridge ed., Jas. Clarke & Co., London, 1957 rep., IV:2:11f & 4:5:13 and 4:1:11 & 2:1-11.
- 2) *Ib.*, IV:7:2-4,16. 3) *Ib.*, IV:7:17-24f & 29.
- 4) J. Calvin: *Commentaries on the First Book of Moses called Genesis*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1948, I:44, on Gen. 17:4 & 21:12f.
- 5) *Ib.*, II:174.
- 6) *Commentaries on the Four Last Books of Moses arranged in the Form of a Harmony*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1948f, I:38, on Ex. 1:22; and I:146f,150 on Ex. 7:10f.
- 7) *Ib.*, I:32. 8) *Ib.*, II:221, on Num. 3:5; cf. too II:298 on Ex. 29:42f.
- 9) J. Calvin: *Sermons on Deuteronomy* [1555f], Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh, 1987 rep., p. 5.a 45-52.
- 10) *Ib.*, p. 14.b 10-20. 11) *Ib.*, p. 214 a 65-70 & b 20-30.
- 12) J. Calvin: *Sermons on Deuteronomy* [1555f], Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1987 rep., p. 124 a 49-58.
- 13) *Ib.*, p. 187a 20-30. 14) *Ib.*, pp. 217 b 50-60 & 218 a 1-15. 15) *Ib.*, p. 228 b 46-47.
- 16) *Ib.*, pp. 241 & 243 a 48-53. 17) *Ib.*, p. 270 a 16-18. 18) *Ib.*, p. 389 a 10-15 & 63-66 and b 1-5 & 35-45.
- 19) *Ib.*, p. 445 a 35-50 & 447 b 25-20. 20) *Ib.*, pp. 489 b 15-25 & 493 b 28-35 & 41-50 and p. 494 a 17-21.
- 21) *Ib.*, pp. 495 a 49-55 & 58-61.
- 22) *Ib.*, pp. 504 b 7-11 & 19-23 & 46-53 & 64-66 and 505 a 1-10 & 31-35 & b 18-20.
- 23) *Ib.*, pp. 528 b 55-65 & 529 a 58-66 & b 1-3 & b 5-10 & 530 b 55-57.
- 24) *Ib.*, pp. 543 a 20-30 & 545 a 1-5 & 15-16 & 22-29 & 45-46 & b 1-6.
- 25) *Ib.*, p. 564 a 10-15. 26) *Ib.*, p. 628 a 60-66 & b 1 & 45-50. 27) *Ib.*, p. 636 a 50-59.
- 28) *Ib.*, p. 666 b 7-9 & 25-30. 29) *Ib.*, pp. 698 a 40-42 and 684 b 4-42.
- 30) *Ib.*, pp. 809 a 16-30 & b 46-58 and 810 a 3-19 & b 30-58. 31) *Ib.*, p. 903 a 58- 65 & b 15-35.
- 32) *Ib.*, p. 983 a 55-58 and p. 1165 a 31-38.
- 33) *Ib.*, p. 1193 a 22-24 and p.1205 b 57-66 & 1206 a 5-12 & 17-22 & 25-32.
- 34) J. Calvin: *Commentary on the Book of Psalms*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1948f, III:271f.
- 35) *Ib.*, III:343f. 36) *Ib.*, IV:392-94. 37) *Ib.*, V:17 (being Calvin's comment on Ps. 119:136).
- 38) J. Calvin: *Commentary on the Book of the Prophet Isaiah*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1947f rep., I:xvi-xvii.

- 39) *Ib.*, I:41 on Isa. 1:3; I:86 on Isa. 1:30. 40) *Ib.*, I:386-89 on Isa. 11:9f.
- 41) *Ib.*, II:181 on Isa. 24:16, and II:310f on Isa. 29:1. 42) *Ib.*, II:411.
- 43) J. Calvin's *Commentaries on the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah and Lamentations*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1947f rep., I:44f., on Jer. 1:9f.
- 44) *Ib.*, I:85 & 128. 45) *Ib.*, I:310. 46) *Ib.*, I:396-98. 47) *Ib.*, III:80. 48) *Ib.*, III:130.
- 49) *Ib.*, III:159. 50) *Ib.*, V:15f.
- 51) J. Knox.: *Works* V:121f, 189 (cited in K. Reed's *A Warning Against the Anabaptists by John Knox*, Presbyterian Heritage, Dallas, 1984, pp. 4 & 13).
- 52) J. Calvin's *Commentaries on the First Twenty Chapters of the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1948 rep., I:125, on Ezek. 2:8.
- 53) *Ib.*, I:149-52. 54) *Ib.*, I:291. 55) *Ib.*, II:35 & 42. 56) *Ib.*, II:120-22.
- 57) J. Calvin: *Commentaries on the Book of the Prophet Daniel* [1561], Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1948 rep., I:165,167,182,181-85.
- 58) *Ib.*, I:198f. 59) *Ib.*, I:208f & 212. 60) *Ib.*, I:280f. 61) *Ib.*, I:381 & 384.
- 62) *Ib.*, pp. 21-25 & 54-60 on Dan. 7:7 & 7:19-24. It is true that in his *Comm. on Dan.*, Calvin identifies the "little horn" of Dan. 7:8 which in time becomes "more stout" as in Dan. 7:20 with the Roman caesars (pp. 27f & 55f). Yet even there, he identifies it also with those "who succeeded" Julius Caesar in the Roman Empire. This ultimately included the Roman Popes, as Calvin himself taught specifically in *Inst.* IV:7:25 and also implicitly in his *Inst.* IV:2:11f & 4:5:13 and further in his *Remarks on the Letter of Pope Paul III*. For the latter, see at nn. 178f below.
- 63) *Inst.* 4:7:25. 64) *Comm. on Dan.*, pp. 21,25f,37, & 50 (on Dan. 7:7 & 7:11 & 7:18). 65) *Ib.*, I:54f,60,65f,71 & 75f.
- 66) J. Calvin: *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, London: James Clarke, 1957, IV:7:25. 67) *Ib.* II:119,128f.
- 68) *Ib.*, II:125 & 129. 69) *Ib.*, II:153 & 184. 70) *Ib.*, II:317. 71) *Ib.*, II:327-34. 72) *Ib.*, II:327-34.
- 73) *Ib.*, II:338-44. 74) *Ib.*, II:345-47.
- 75) Here in Dan. 11:30, the "*Chittim*" are the Romans. Cf. Num. 24:24. See too Dan. 11:41-45f, which Calvin and the *Geneva Bible* and Matthew Poole and Matthew Henry and Thomas Newton and Albert Barnes and H.C. Leupold and B.H. Carroll and E.J. Young and R.J. Rushdoony *etc.* (all here following Jerome and his *Vulgate*) rightly equate with the Pagan Roman occupation of the Holy Land.
- 76) F. Josephus: *Wars of the Jews* VI:9:1-4 cf. Matt. 24::21. 77) Mt. 24:15 & n. 78.
- 78) Mt. 24:28 (cf. Lev. 11:13f, Mt. 24:15; Dan. 8:13; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11). 79) Mt. 24:16.
- 80) Dan. 12:1,2,13 cf. 7:17f; 7:19-27; 8:9-14,23-25; 11:31,36 & 12:1f,7,11-13 cf. n. 78 & II Th. ch. 2 & Rev. chs. 11-22.
- 81) *Op. cit.*, II:370,378f.

82) Cf. Dan. 12:4,6,7,9,13. On this day-year principle of prophetic interpretation (cf. Gen. 29:20-27; Num. 14:34; Dan. 7:25; 9:24f; 12:7-12; Ezek. 4:4f; Rev. 11:2f; 12:6-14; 13:1-5), Dan. 12:7's 'three-and-a-half times' means $360 + 360 + 360 + 180 = 1260$ years. Note that the 1290 & 1335 "days" mentioned in Dan. 12:11f also seem to throw light on the nature of the '3.5 times' of Dan. 12:7 (& 7:25 etc.). The "scattering of the power of the holy people" in Dan. 12:7, refers to the Newer Testament's Christians (cf. Mt. 24:16-20 & Acts 8:1,4). For the Biblical explanation of the setting up of the abomination that desolates and that takes away the daily sacrifice of Dan. 12:11, cf. Dan. 9:26b-27 and so too especially Mt. 24:1-3,15f,28 & Mk. 13:14.

83) *Comm. Dan. 12:7* (II:383f). 84) *Ib.*, II:390-92.

85) J. Calvin: *Commentary on a Harmony of the Evangelists Matthew, Mark and Luke*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1948f rep., III:133f.

86) Cf. n. 82. 87) *Op. cit.*, II:392. 88) *Ib.*, II: 392f.

89) J. Calvin: *Commentaries on the Twelve Minor Prophets*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1948f rep., I:78.

90) *Ib.*, I:83. 91) *Ib.*, I:107. 92) *Ib.*, I:161f & 173. 93) *Ib.*, I:305. 94) *Ib.*, I:348. 95) *Ib.*, I:365.

96) *Ib.*, I:451. 97) *Ib.*, II:138 & 187. 98) *Ib.*, III:65 & 68. 99) *Ib.*, III:160f. 100) *Ib.*, IV:195-97.

101) *Ib.*, V:92-94. 102) *Ib.*, V:284. 103) *Ib.*, V:330-38. 104) *Ib.*, V:498-502. 105) *Ib.*, V:519-22.

106) J. Calvin: *Comm. Harm. Evang.*, V:18. 107) *Ib.*, I:188. 108) *Ib.*, I:277. 109) *Ib.*, II:251f.

110) *Ib.*, II:282. 111) *Ib.*, II:294-98. 112) *Ib.*, III:132-44. 113) *Ib.*, III:389-91.

114) *The Acts of the Apostles 1 - 13*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1965 rep., p. 116. 115) *Ib.*, pp. 146f.

116) *Ib.*, p. 276. 117) *The Acts of the Apostles 14 - 28*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1966 rep., pp. 15 & 45-57.

118) *Ib.*, pp. 76-79. 119) *Ib.*, p. 101. 120) *Ib.*, pp. 158-61. 121) *Ib.*, p. 211. 122) *Ib.*, pp. 231-33.

123) J. Calvin: *The First Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1968, pp. 185f.

124) J. Calvin: *The Second Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians and the Epistles to Timothy, Titus and Philemon*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1964, p. 133.

125) *Ib.*, pp. 140f. 126) *Ib.*, pp. 146 & 149.

127) J. Calvin: *The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1965, pp. 28-45, and p. 51 on Gal. 3:6.

128) *Ib.*, pp. 154f. 129) *Ib.*, pp. 310f.

130) J. Calvin: *The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Romans and to the Thessalonians*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1961, p. 386.

131) *Ib.*, pp. 398-400. 132) J. Calvin: *Comm. on the Four Last Books of Moses*, I:96f. 133) *Ib.*,

I:139.

134) J. Calvin: *Commentary on the Book of Psalms*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1948f, III:330-34.

135) J. Calvin: *The Gospel according to St. John 1-10*, pp. 275f. 136) *Ib.*, p. 270. 137) *Op. cit.*, pp. 400f.

138) *Ib.*, pp. 402f. 139) J. Calvin: *Commentary on the Book of the Prophet Isaiah*, I:374-82.

140) *Op. cit.*, p. 405. 141) *Ib.*, p. 406. 142) *Ib.*, pp. 407f. 143) *Id.* 144) *Ib.*, p. 413.

145) J. Calvin: *The Second Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians and the Epistles to Timothy, Titus and Philemon.*, p. 239.

146) *Ib.*, pp. 323-28. 147) *Ib.*, p. 343.

148) J. Calvin: *The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews and the First and Second Epistles of St. Peter*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1963, pp. 95-97.

149) *Ib.*, p. 133. 150) *Ib.*, pp. 139f. 151) *Ib.*, pp. 219-28. 152) *Ib.*, pp. 262-64. 153) *Ib.*, pp. 315f.

154) *Ib.*, pp. 342-44. 155) *Ib.*, pp. 345f.

156) I Jn. 2:18 *cf.* too vv. 19 & 22; 4:1-6, esp. v. 3; Mt. 24:5,11; Acts 5:29-39 and esp. vv. 35-37.

157) Dan. 7:27; 2:40-44,35; 9:25-27; 11:30f & 12:1f & n. 5551. 158) I Jn. 2:18 *cf.* Mt. 23:37 to 24:1-3,5,11,15,28.

159) J. Calvin: *The Gospel according to St. John 11-21 and The First Epistle of John*, pp. 255f & 260f.

160) *Ib.*, pp. 287-89. 161) *Id.*, and his *Comm.* on II Th. 2. 162) See at n. 151 above.

163) *Westminster Confession of Faith* 23:4no & 25:6no, and the *Westminster Directory for the Publick Worship of God (Of Publick Prayer before the Sermon)*.

164) J. Calvin: *Selected Works of John Calvin – Tracts and Letters*, Baker, Grand Rapids, 1983 rep., I:46.

165) See in J. Calvin's *Institutes*, I:6

166) J. Calvin: *Reply by John Calvin to Letter by Cardinal Sadolet to the Senate and People of Geneva*, in *Calvin's Tracts and Treatises*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1958 rep., I pp. 25.

167) *Ib.*, 36 & 50f.

168) J. Calvin: *Articles Agreed Upon by the Faculty of Sacred Theology of Paris in Reference to Matters of Faith at Present Controverted: with The Antidote*, in *Calvin's Tracts and Treat.*, I:78.

169) *Ib.*, I:79. 170) *Ib.*, I:82. 171) *Ib.*, I:83. 172) *Ib.*, I:101. 173) *Ib.*, I:101-103.

174) *Ib.*, I:108. 175) *Ib.*, I:110-12. 176) *Ib.*, I:219f. 177) *Ib.*, I:235.

178) *Ib.*, I:257-64 & 273-76 & 282-85. 179) *Ib.*, III:32f,49. 180) *Ib.*, III:291-97.

181) J. Calvin: *Commentary on the Book of the Prophet Isaiah*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1947f rep., I:xxii.

182) J. Calvin & J. de Chandieu: *The French Confession of Faith*, arts. 24 & 28. Text in P. Schaff: *The Creeds of Christendom*, Baker, Grand Rapids, 1983 rep., III:373-76.

183) *Ist Scots Confession*, ch. 18. 184) *Belgic Confession*, arts. 27-29. 185) See in Schaff's *Creeds*, I:480f.

186) Thus C. van der Waal: *Die Dordtse Leerreëls Verdor Nie!*, De Jong, Johannesburg, 1973, p. 32.

187) *Westmin. Conf.*, 22:7. 188) *Ib.*, 23:4. 189) *Ib.*, 24:3. 190) *Ib.*, 25:5-6. 191) *Ib.*, 29:2-6.

192) See *The Directory for the Publick Worship of God*, in *The Subordinate Standards and Other Authoritative Documents of the Free Church of Scotland*, Edinburgh: Offices of the Free Church of Scotland, 1933, p. 290.

193) Compare for example in Australia, the *Presbyterian Church of Australia Constitution, Procedure and Practice*, Code Committee of the General Assembly of Australia, PCA Church Offices, Sydney, N.S.W., 1993, p. 8 VI.

194) M. Luther: *Collected Works*, Holman ed., Philadelphia, 1915, III:201,215,217,308. 195) *Ib.*, VI:488.

196) J. Calvin: *Sel. Works* (Bonnet), IV:166f. 197) J. Calvin: *Inst.*, IV:7:4.

198) J. Calvin: *Tract. & Treat.*, I:282f. 199) J. Calvin: *Comm. on Dan.*, II:378.

200) J. Calvin: *Comm. on II Thess.* 2:3-8. 201) *Scots Conf.*, ch. 18. 202) J. Calvin: *Comm. on II Thess.* 2:3-8.

203) C. van der Waal: *Op. cit.*, p. 32. 204) *W.C.F.*, 22:7. 205) *Ib.*, 24:3. 206) *Ib.*, 29:2-6.

207) *Ib.*, 25:5-6. 208) *W.L.C.*, Q. & A. 191. 209) *Ib.*, QQ. & AA. 195-96. 210) *W.L.C.* Q. & A. 191.

211) *W.L.C.* Q. & A. 195. 212) *W.L.C.* Q. & A. 196.

213) *The Sub. Standards...of the Free Church of Scotland*, p. 290.

214) *Cf. Rev.* 15:4; 16:10;17:16f; 18:2-4; 19:10-20.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Francis Nigel Lee was born in 1934 in the Westmorland County of Cumbria (in Great Britain). He is the great-grandson of a fiery preacher whose family disintegrated when he backslid. Though Lee's father was an Atheist, he married a Roman Catholic who raised her son in that faith.

At the onset of the Second World War, Lee's father was appointed by the Royal Navy as Chief Radar Officer (South Atlantic). So the family then moved to South Africa. There, Lee became a Calvinist; had the great joy of leading both of his parents to Christ; and became a Minister of God's Word and Sacraments in the Dutch Reformed Church of Natal.

Emigrating to the U.S.A., Lee transferred his ministerial credentials to the Presbyterian Church in America and pastored in Mississippi and Florida. He was too: Professor of Philosophy at Shelton College in New Jersey; Visiting Lecturer at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson Ms.; Staley Distinguished Visiting Lecturer at Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis; Scholar-in-Residence at the Christian Studies Center in Memphis; and Dean of Graham Bible College in Tennessee.

Preacher, Theologian, Lawyer, Educationist, Historian, Philosopher and Author, Lee produced more than 330 publications (including many books) -- and also a multitude of long unpublished manuscripts. Apart from an honorary LL.D., he has twenty-one earned degrees -- including eleven earned doctorates for dissertations in Education, Law, Literature, Philosophy and Theology.

Dr. Lee rises at 5 a.m.; reads God's Word in ten languages; then walks a couple of miles before breakfast. He has been round the World seven times; has visited one hundred and ten countries (several repeatedly); and also every Continent (except Antarctica). He is in demand as a Promoter of Doctoral Students in Australia, England, Germany, South Africa and the United States. He has lectured or preached in all of those countries, as well as Brazil, Scotland, Korea, Japan, Namibia, New Zealand, and Zambia.

A diehard predestinarian, Lee now lives in Australia -- where he is the Professor of Systematic Theology and also Caldwell-Morrow Lecturer in Church History at the Queensland Presbyterian Theological College. He retires in 2000.