

Daniel, Prophet of the End

Lesson 6, From Arrogance to Destruction

Commentary by Garrick Augustus, February 7, 2020



Introduction, Sabbath Afternoon, February 1

In Chapter 5 we shall study about king Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, and how he was deposed because he had not learned the lesson that God had communicated to his grandfather, even though he lived through his Dad's experience of arrogance, narcissism, pride, humility to the dust, and exaltation to true kingly nobility and divine worship. God is patient with sinners, and is kind, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and live, but to all is granted a fixed probation, and when the fullness of His grace is despised, then the ministry of His wrath commences. The gospel is designed for all mankind, and God sends missionaries of hope to the earth's remotest places, and to the most exalted potentates. He ministers in dreams, visions, nature, angels, life's incidences, and interpersonal relations with other humans, no matter their nationality, race, culture, pedigree, or religion, and makes His purposes known to men.

This week we will learn the truth behind mixing the holy with the unholy, the righteous with profligate, and the sacred with the profane, and how God sees it from His perspective. The enduring truth of Daniel 5 is that God controls history, and prophecy, and He accomplishes His purposes through the basest of men. Indeed, to Belshazzar Daniel would eventually say, as verily as he had to Nebuchadnezzar, "the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will." (Dan. 5: 21).

Mixing the Holy with the Profane

We must respect the holiness of YHWH and at no time seek to merge or blend the two (the Holy and the unholy) without direct visitation from on High! Such was the case of Belshazzar, who had been instructed in holiness and knew of YHWH the one who humbled his grandfather to the ground!

- "16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17 If **any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy**, which temple ye are." 1 Cor. 3: 16, 17
- "15 And **what concord hath Christ with Belial?** or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And **what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?**" 2 Cor. 6: 15, 16
- "10 And that ye may **put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean.**" Lev. 10: 10
- "Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: **they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean**, and have hid their eyes from my Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them." Ezek. 22:26

- With unerring accuracy the Infinite One still keeps an account with all nations. While **His mercy is tendered with calls to repentance** this account will remain open, but **when the figures reach a certain amount, which God has fixed, the ministry of His wrath commences.**--5T 208 (1882). {LDE 39.6}
- God keeps a reckoning with the nations. . . . **When the time fully comes that iniquity shall have reached the stated boundary of God's mercy, His forbearance will cease.** When the accumulated figures in heaven's record books shall mark the sum of transgression complete, **wrath will come.**--5T 524 (1889). {LDE 40.2}
- While God's mercy bears long with the transgressor, **there is a limit beyond which men may not go on in sin.** When that limit is reached, then **the offers of mercy are withdrawn, and the ministration of judgment begins.**--PP 162, 165 (1890). {LDE 40.3}
- “**1**In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. **2**And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of **the vessels of the house of God:** which he carried into the land of Shinar **to the house of his god;** and **he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.**” Dan 1: 1, 2

Belshazzar's Drunken Feast; [Sunday February 2](#)

- “**1**Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and **drank wine** before the thousand. **2**Belshazzar, **whiles he tasted the wine,** commanded to **bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem;** that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, **might drink therein.** **3**Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which *was* at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them. **4**They drank wine, **and praised the gods** of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.” Dan. 5: 1-4
- “**Wine is a mocker,** strong drink is raging: and **whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.**” Prov. 20:1
- “29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath **babbling?** who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? 30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. 31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. 32 At the last **it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.**” Prov. 23: 29-32
- “4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, **it is not for kings to drink wine;** nor for princes strong drink: 5 Lest **they drink, and forget the law,** and **pervert the judgment** of any of the afflicted.” Prov. 31: 4, 5.
- **Lesson Notes:** “This feast serves as an apt representation of end-time Babylon as seen in the book of Revelation. Like Belshazzar, the woman in end-time Babylon holds a golden cup and offers polluted drink to the nations. In other words, by means of false doctrines and a distorted worship system, modern Babylon lures the world into evil ([Rev. 17:4-6](#)), oblivious to the judgment that will soon fall upon her. One day judgment will come.”

The Ark among the Philistines

- “**2**When **the Philistines took the ark of God,** they brought it into **the house of Dagon,** and set it by Dagon. **3**And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, **Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth** before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. **4**And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, **Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground** before the ark of the LORD; and **the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off** upon the threshold; only *the*

stump of Dagon was left to him... “ [7](#) And when the men of Ashdod saw that *it was so*, they said, **The ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us**: for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god.” 1 Sam. 5: 2-7

- “[8](#) ... Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath. ... [10](#) Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, **They have brought about the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people.** [11](#) So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, **Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people**: for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.” 1 Sam. 5: 8-11

An Uninvited & Unseen Guest; [Monday February 3](#)

- “5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a **man’s hand**, and wrote over against **the candlestick** upon the plaister of the wall of the king’s palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. 6 Then **the king’s countenance was changed**, and **his thoughts troubled him**, so that **the joints of his loins were loosed**, and **his knees smote one against another**. 7 The king cried aloud to bring in the **astrologers**, the **Chaldeans**, and the **soothsayers**. And the king spake, and said to **the wise men of Babylon**,* Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom. 8 Then came in all the king’s wise men: but **they could not read the writing**, nor make known to the king **the interpretation thereof**.” Dan. 5: 5-8
- Yesterday, the kings consulted “the wise men of Babylon,” and of their respective nations, and sought not the knowledge of YHWH, the All-knowing One. Today, we see a similar pattern, the so-called “wise men”—the Scientists are believed implicitly, as though they had direct communication with God! Nothing has more rapidly propelled the religion of Climate Change today, than has the support of “the scientists” of our times. We will build on this idea in Friday’s **Further Studies and Reflection**.



“13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but **have removed their heart far from me**, and **their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men**: 14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for **the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid**.” Isa. 29: 12, 14

- “1 ¶ Thus saith the LORD to **his anointed, to Cyrus**, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will **loose the loins of kings**, to open before him the two leaved gates; and **the gates shall not be shut**; 2 I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces **the gates of brass**, and cut in sunder **the bars of iron**: 3 And I will give thee **the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places**, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.” Isa. 45: 1-3

Enter the Queen; [Tuesday February 4](#)

- “**9** Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and **his countenance was changed** in him, and his lords were astonished. **10** **Now the queen**, by reason of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet house: *and* the queen spake and said, O king, live forever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed: **11** **There is a man in thy kingdom**, in whom *is* the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, *I say*, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, *and* soothsayers; **12** Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now **let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.**”*
- As truly as the queen enquired after the Prophet Daniel, so too did king Jehoshaphat inquire when he needed to have a clear understanding of Present Truth. It is a hard truth to quaff, but there are many “interpreters” of divine mysteries—the prophecies of today—who are no less learned than were the wise men of ancient Babylon, and the people of God are being misled by these false teachers, from the Theological Seminaries to the pews! All the while, none seemingly pause to enquire, “Is there no prophet of God here?” It is important to know that the secret things of God’s word are revealed unto His servants the prophets, and kept with those who fear Him.
- “**11** But Jehoshaphat said, ***Is there not here a prophet of the LORD***, that we may inquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel’s servants answered and said, Here *is* Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah. **12** And Jehoshaphat said, **The word of the LORD is with him**. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.” 2 Kings 3: 11, 12

Weighed and Found Wanting [Wednesday February 5](#)

- “**13** Then was Daniel brought in before the king. *And* the king spake and said unto Daniel, **Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah**, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry? **14** **I have even heard of thee**, that the spirit of the gods *is* in thee, and *that* light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee. **15** And now **the wise men**, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but **they could not shew the interpretation of the thing**: **16** And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now **if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation** thereof, **[then] thou** shalt be clothed with scarlet, and *have* a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the **third ruler in the kingdom**.” Dan. 5: 13-16*
- Unlike his predecessors, though pressed to know the intent of the hand writing, Belshazzar did not invoke the death-penalty upon his “wise men,” should they be rendered incapable to disclosing the mysterious writing, instead he chose the route of flattery and bribery! God’s servants are motivated, not by silver or gold, position and pomp, but by the deep conviction of moral rectitude. They will not flinch or swerve to the left or to the right, but deliver “thus saith the LORD,” when so moved, and address their pointed messages as they are moved by the Holy Spirit. They leave consequences with God, though bearing such “straight testimony” often carries consequences!

- The king's inquiry and statement that "I have even HEARD of thee," indicates that he was either not paying attention to what had happened before, during his tender youth, under the two administrations before his, or was totally careless to spiritual matters. That he was careless to Divine spiritual matters is evident, for he held a drunken festival and insulted YHWH, the God of the Hebrews, by desecrating His holy vessels with his intoxicating liquor, even while he showed deference to the Babylonian idols and their flagons of libation and honor, by leaving them in storage! But God would use this opportunity to again place His prophet on the stage of the kingdom once more, even while the kingdom, and thus the king, was standing in the shadow of its doom!
- "[17](#)Then Daniel answered and said before the king, **Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another**; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation. [18](#)O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour ... [20](#) But when **his heart was lifted up**, and his mind **hardened in pride**, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: [21](#)And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and *that* he appointeth over it whomsoever he will. [22](#) And **thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart**, though **thou knewest all this**; [23](#) But hast **lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven**; and they have **brought the vessels of his house before thee**, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast **praised the gods** of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and **the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:**" Dan. 5: 17-23 *
 - In his expression, "Let thy gifts be to thyself," Daniel was literally saying to the King, "keep your gifts" and give it to others, but as for me, I will deliver you the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness. It was Isaiah who warned, "**Cry aloud, spare not**, lift up thy voice like a **trumpet**, and **shew my people their transgression**, and the house of Jacob **their sins**." (Isa. 58: 1). Daniel was faithful in this regard as well. While preparing for his death, the apostle Paul recounted:
- "And how **I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you**, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly," (Acts 20:20), and the same can also be said of Daniel—he kept back nothing!
- Realizing that the king had willfully despised the knowledge of the Most Holy One of Israel, Daniel gave the him a primer course in the nation's history and involvement with YHWH, by taking him back to the days of his youth. Daniel chastened, "[22](#) And **thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart**, though **thou knewest all this**; [23](#) But hast **lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven**; ... and **the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified!** [24](#) Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written. [25](#)And this *is* the writing that was written, **MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN**. [26](#)This *is* the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. [27](#) **TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting**. [28](#) **PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.**" Dan. 5: 22-28
- "**In that last night of mad folly**, Belshazzar and his lords had filled up the measure of their guilt and the guilt of the Chaldean kingdom. No longer could God's restraining hand ward off the impending evil. Through manifold providences, God had sought to teach them reverence for His law. "We would have healed Babylon," He declared of those whose judgment was now reaching unto heaven, "but she is not healed."

Jeremiah 51:9. Because of the strange perversity of the human heart, God had at last found it necessary to pass the irrevocable sentence. Belshazzar was to fall, and **his kingdom was to pass into other hands**. {PK 530.3}

The Fall of Babylon Thursday February 6

- **29**Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and *put* a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that **he should be the third ruler in the kingdom**. **30**In that night was **Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain**. **31** And **Darius the Median** took the kingdom, *being* about threescore and two years old." Dan. 5: 29-31
- "28 Prepare against her the nations with **the kings of the Medes**, the captains thereof, and all the rulers thereof, and all the land of his dominion. 29 And **the land shall tremble and sorrow**: for **every purpose of the LORD shall be performed** against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without an inhabitant. 30 **The mighty men of Babylon have forborn to fight**, they have **remained in their holds**: their **might hath failed**; they became as women: they have burned her dwellingplaces; her bars are broken." Jer. 51: 28-30
- "31 One post shall run to meet another, and **one messenger to meet another, to shew the king of Babylon that his city is taken at one end**, 32 And that **the passages are stopped**, and the reeds they have burned with fire, and **the men of war are affrighted**. 33 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; The daughter of Babylon is like a threshingfloor, it is time to thresh her: yet a little while, and **the time of her harvest** shall come." Jer. 51: 28-33
- "Cyrus then dug a trench and diverted the flow of the Euphrates river into the new channel which led to an existing swamp. The level of the river then dropped to such a level that it became like a stream. His army was then able to take the city by marching through the shallow waters . . . The Babylonians at the time were celebrating intensely at a feast to one of their gods and they were taken totally by surprise." John Argubright, 2013, *Bible Believer's Archaeology Volume 1*, p. 125
- "**More than a century before**, Inspiration had foretold that "**the night of . . . pleasure**" during which king and counselors would vie with one another in blasphemy against God, **would suddenly be changed into a season of fear and destruction**. And now, in rapid succession, momentous events followed one another exactly as had been portrayed in the prophetic scriptures years before the principals in the drama had been born. {PK 531.1}
- "**While still in the festal hall**, surrounded by those whose doom has been sealed, **the king is informed by a messenger that "his city is taken"** by the enemy against whose devices he had felt so secure; "that the passages are stopped, . . . and the men of war are affrighted." Verses 31, 32. **Even while he and his nobles were drinking from the sacred vessels of Jehovah**, and praising their gods of silver and of gold, **the Medes and the Persians, having turned the Euphrates out of its channel, were marching into the heart of the unguarded city**. The **army of Cyrus** now stood under the walls of the palace; the city was filled with the soldiers of the enemy, "as with caterpillars" (verse 14); and their triumphant shouts could be heard above the despairing cries of the astonished revelers." {PK 531.2}
- "In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain," and **an alien monarch sat upon the throne**. {PK 531.3}

- “Clearly had **the Hebrew prophets spoken** concerning the manner in which Babylon should fall. As in vision God had revealed to them the events of the future, they had exclaimed: "How is Sheshach taken! and how is the praise of the whole earth surprised! how is Babylon become an astonishment among the nations!" "How is **the hammer of the whole earth cut asunder and broken!** how is Babylon become a desolation among the nations!" "At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth is moved, and the cry is heard among the nations." {PK 531.4}

Further Study and Application Friday, February 7

“Every nation that has come upon the stage of action has been permitted to occupy its place on the earth, that the fact might be determined whether it would **fulfill the purposes of the Watcher and the Holy One**. Prophecy has traced the rise and progress of the world's great empires--Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. With each of these, as with the nations of less power, history has repeated itself. Each has had its period of test; **each has failed, its glory faded, its power departed**. {PK 535.1}

“While nations have **rejected God's principles**, and in this rejection have wrought their own ruin, yet a **divine, overruling purpose** has manifestly been at work throughout the ages. {PK 535.2}



Green Sabbath by Green Sabbath Org

- Green Sabbath is a **non-religious**, non-political, and non-profit campaign which aims to raise awareness and to encourage people to **help slow climate change, preserve precious natural resources and improve planet health** by **observing at least one carbon footprint-free day each week**--on any day of the week. We call it symbolically **A Green Sabbath day**. <http://GreenSabbath.org>
- The organization's name borrowed symbolically from traditions' day of rest and conservation. Sabbath is not a new idea. Although Green Sabbath has **no religious affiliations**, its vision was inspired by essence of two traditions. One is **the ancient tradition of Sabbath practiced in some form by all major faiths... A period of environmental rest ... Once A Week** can result in over 15% annual emission reduction per country. Participation by only top carbon dioxide emitting countries will **have the largest impact in climate change!**" - <https://www.climatecolab.org>

“EARTH DAY AND THE SABBATH COMMANDMENT”



“Catholic Relief Services (CRS), April 1, 2016: **The Third Commandment** given to Moses allowed the Israelites **a day off from work**. It reflected **God's rest during creation** and offered a benefit few laborers received in those days. God also extended the Commandment beyond just labor: he designated **every seventh year** as a time of rest for **the land**...

“But God promised that **if his people honored the Commandment, he would provide for them**. And although manna would normally rot if it was not eaten the same day it was collected, on the day before the Sabbath, the Israelites could collect enough manna to carry them through.

“To this day, some farmers still practice good stewardship of the land. They know that **letting land go fallow restores and replenishes soil**. So each year, they plant on selected acres and let another part of the farmland rest...Only trust in God’s providence allows us to fearlessly **let land go fallow** for a time. When **we and our land take rest**, we are gradually restored. Paradoxically, we become more productive.”-- <https://www.crs.org>



An Evangelical Movement Takes On Climate Change

April 9, 2016: “Momentum for this **moral approach** to climate action reached new heights when Pope Francis made environmentalism a pillar of his papacy. The effort ... reached a crescendo this past summer with the release of a [nearly 200-page](#) encyclical, “Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home.” ... Speaking from the South Lawn of the White House this fall, Francis issued a call to action: “Climate change is a problem which can no longer be left to our [future generation](#). I would like **all men and women of goodwill in this great nation** to support the efforts of **the international community** to protect the vulnerable in our world.”

- It appears his people may be listening. [Polling](#) from the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication shows that between March and October the number of American Catholics who say they believe in climate change rose from 64 to 74 percent... <https://www.newsweek.com>



“Do **Scientists** Agree on Climate Change? **Yes**, the vast majority of actively publishing climate scientists – 97 percent – agree that humans are causing **global warming and climate change**. Most of the leading science organizations around the world have issued public statements expressing this...”-- <https://climate.nasa.gov>

The New York Times



Sept. 18, 2019: “That’s what Ms. Thunberg, 16, [told members of Congress on Wednesday](#), when she was asked to submit her testimony into the record. She submitted a report issued last October by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), spelling out the threats of global temperature rise. “**I don’t want you to listen to me,**” she said. “**I want you to listen to the scientists.**” ... “And then I want you to take real action.”-- [NY Times](#)

Babylon’s Drunken Feast Yesterday*

* As anciently the king of Babylon served “wine” to his people, in the latter days there is a wine potion that is also served to the world, and now as then, that “wine” will work to their own undoing, for it caused them to mix the sacred with the profane, the holy with the unholy. Even now, there is a movement afoot called “Climate Change”—the world’s most severe existential threat, in the minds of many policy makers, but this is only the brainchild of the Head of modern Babylon—the Roman Catholic Papacy! They have gone as far as now proposing a climate Sabbath, to be recognized in their vain attempt to “save the planet” from human destruction, due to consumption, greed, and waste! While on its face it has a strong humanitarian and even

religious appeal, it is nothing short of the intoxicating liquor from the pit of hell! Pay special attention to our SDA's twice-repeated phrase, "**caring for our environment**," with the words of the Pope that follows, and see if there are any similarities! Maybe we should ask the deeper question: who or what is the motivation force behind the SDA's new "Green Sabbath" initiative?

'GREEN SABBATH' PRODUCES ECO-CHRISTIANS

- "As part of an initiative to get church members more focused on **caring for our environment**, Sabbath, 31 March was dubbed 'Green Sabbath' across the British Isles. **Many churches** were enthusiastic about **getting involved and fully embraced** the 'green' – even if it wasn't their colour!
- "Horley Gatwick church were preparing on the Friday, setting up fruit and water for those walking to church in their **green coloured outfits** the next morning. **They also decided to decorate their church in green to depict the extent to which we should be caring for our environment.** Their motto for the day was 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rejoice!'"[--https://ted.adventist.org](https://ted.adventist.org)



Babylon's Drunken Feast Today

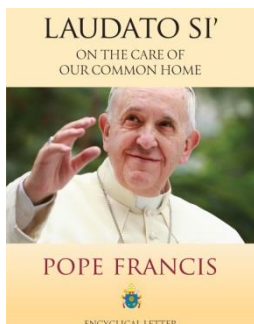
Pope Francis says destroying the environment is a sin

"[Pope Francis](#) has called for urgent action to stop climate change and proposed that **caring for the environment** be added to **traditional Christian**



works of mercy such as feeding the hungry and visiting the sick."...

- "Francis described **man's destruction of the environment** as a sin and accused mankind of turning the planet into a "polluted wasteland full of debris, desolation and filth"...
- He called for **care for the environment** to be added to the **seven spiritual works of mercy outlined in the Gospel** that **the faithful are asked to perform** throughout the pope's year of mercy in 2016." — [The Guardian](#), Sept. 1, 2016.



- "In my Apostolic Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#), I wrote to all the members of the Church with the aim of encouraging ongoing missionary renewal. In this Encyclical, I would like to enter into **dialogue with all people** about **our common home.**" — *Laudato Si*, Par. 3.
- "While some are concerned only with financial gain, and others with holding on to or increasing their power, what we are left with are conflicts or spurious agreements where the last thing either party is concerned about is **caring for the environment** and protecting those who are most vulnerable." — *Laudato Si*, Par. 198
- "It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation.

Grace, which tends to manifest itself tangibly, found unsurpassable expression when God himself became man and gave himself as food for his creatures... The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; **it embraces and**

penetrates all creation... Thus, **the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment**, directing us to be stewards of all creation.” —*Laudato Si*, Par. 236

- “**On Sunday**, our participation in **the Eucharist** has special importance. **Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath**, is meant to be **a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world**... Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so **the day of rest, centred on the Eucharist**, sheds its light on the whole week, and **motivates us to greater concern for nature [the earth] and the poor [its inhabitants]**.” —*Laudato Si*, Par. 237.*
- *This concept of caring for nature (the earth) and the poor (its inhabitants) is a loud echo from Rev 13: 12, in which the Bible says the two-horned beast, the USA, will engineer and enforce a religious system patterned after the Papacy’s brutal rule during the Inquisition era, and decree that the whole earth, meaning **land and people** will be compelled to worship! Specifically, that passage says, “And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth **the earth and them which dwell therein to worship** the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.” The wine of Babylon for today is lethally mixed with the popular Climate Change/Global Warming missionary spirit that is now propelling by the Pope’s-inspired “Paris Climate Change Accords,” and its little **child**, Greta Thunberg—the proverbial Climate Change Messiah! And the whole world, except the President of the United States, is now wondering after them! It should not be hard to see how little work is left before the whole world wonders after the beast!
- “1 ¶ And after these things I saw **another angel** come down from heaven, having great power; and **the earth was lightened with his glory**. 2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, **Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen**, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 3 For **all nations** have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. 4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not **partakers of her sins**, and that ye **receive not of her plagues**. 5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” Rev. 18: 1-5.
- “45 **My people, go ye out of the midst of her**, and **deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the LORD**... 50 Ye that have escaped the sword, go away, stand not still: remember the LORD afar off, and **let Jerusalem come into your mind**.” Jer. 51: 45
- As anciently God’s people involuntarily ended up in Babylon, on account of the apostasy of their leaders, similarly today, the Christian Church has found herself in Babylon’s modern counterpart—Roman Catholicism *blended* with Evangelical Protestantism, embrace. As then God’s people learnt the false doctrines and worship practices of Babylon, the same is true today. Much of what is today called “the Orthodox Christian Faith” is a concoction of Rome’s theology, to include Sunday sacredness, abandonment of all the “Mosaic laws” pertaining to worship, such as the holy “appointed times,” and the health and dietary laws, among others, are all relegated to articles of the so-called “ceremonial law.” which have been summarily “nailed to the cross,” they hold. When we get to Chapter 7:25, we will expand on this historical and prophetic understanding, for truly, God is calling His people out of Babylon today, both intellectually, spiritually, doctrinally, and physically! In order to be completely extricated from her clutches, we must understand God’s worship “times and laws” that Rome has tampered with, and passed them on to the rest of the world in a near-seamless deceptive transfer! Heaven is appealing to all of us today: “Come out of Babylon, my people!” Today, if ye hear His voice, harden not your heart.

Thought Questions:

Quarterly's Questions:

- "What opportunities do we have to become 'acquainted with truth'?"
- What does that mean? At what point can we say that we are acquainted with all the truth that we need to know?"

Further Questions:

- What have we done with those opportunities to hear and understand the truth?
- How have we treated the truth that is inconvenient, and hard to grasp, due to erroneous preconceptions?
- Shall we slay the messenger and rip to shreds the message?
- Does God have additional light for His church today?

May God grant us the wisdom of Daniel do you understand his Truth for today, in Jesus's name, amen.

Comments by Garrick Augustus, February 7, 2020.

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