

Fatima Shock!

The truth about Fatima and Future Apparitions

How and why you and your family will be impacted by the Lady of Fatima if you survive.

Understand what happened so you can be prepared for what is coming.

In 1917, three young children saw a series of monthly apparitions that changed their lives as well as the area they grew up in. Few know what the children originally claimed they saw. What they saw and the ramifications of parts of the messages of Fatima will come as a shock to most people. The ramifications of Fatima will affect you, whether you are Catholic or not. *Fatima Shock* contains the documented truth about what happened in Fatima as well as facts about other past and expected future apparitions.

How can you know the truth so that you can protect yourself and your loved ones?

Bob Thiel, Ph.D.
www.fatimashock.com

3rd Edition

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Understand what happened so you can be prepared for what is coming.

Bob Thiel, Ph.D.
(Also known as COGwriter)

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR, HIS JOURNEY TO FATIMA, AND THIS BOOK

The story of Fatima is an early memory. I was born into a Catholic family, baptized into the Church of Rome according to Catholic rites, and about ten years later received Confirmation into the Roman Catholic faith. I attended a Catholic elementary school (St. Thomas Aquinas) while living near one. I recall my parents telling me about some of the messages that were given in Fatima.

At least once as a child, I saw a movie replayed on television about Fatima titled *The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima*. In the movie, there were children who saw something that the film indicated was Mary of the Bible. In it, the Lady seemed to emit a lot of light, like she was glowing.

But, probably like most people, I did not think much about it again for many years.

Pope John Paul II is Shot

In 1981, on May 13th to be exact, I remember hearing about the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II. He was struck by bullets four times.

After hearing how serious it was, I wondered if the shooting might have any implications for the future. Sometime later, there were reports that attempted assassin, Mehmet Ali Ağca from Turkey, claimed that he was doing this to fulfill some prophecy related to Fatima.¹

This claim seemed a bit strange, but later John Paul II indicated that he felt the assassination attempt was predicted as part of the 1917 messages given in Fatima. Part of the publicly-revealed “third” secret in 2000 referred

to the death of the “Holy Father.” Since he did not die, John-Paul II’s feelings seem to be inconsistent with that Fatima message.²

1983 and 2005 Visits to Rome and the Vatican

In early 1983, my wife (Joyce) thought that we should go to Italy. We had never been there and went in the early fall of 1983.

I was somewhat awestruck when first seeing the Coliseum in Rome. Though I had seen pictures of it in books, as well as on television, it just was different seeing it in person. Thoughts of gladiators, Christians being killed and assorted details seemed to temporarily flood my mind.

A day or two later, Joyce and I went to Vatican City and had a guided tour of St. Peter's Basilica. St. Peter's Basilica is architecturally impressive, and apparently was built to make the visitor feel somewhat small and insignificant as the ceiling is quite high. We then went into central Italy.

About ten days later, we were back in Rome. My wife and I really thought it would be great to go back to Vatican City, so we visited it and St. Peter’s again. In those days there were no security screenings, so going from Rome into St. Peter's Basilica was hassle-free.

We did not get back again until 2005. And on this trip, certain questions related to early church history and prophecies were going through my mind. While in Vatican City, I bought a book called *The Popes* at a Vatican museum gift shop and began to read it. This book piqued my interest to explore more church history as well as prophecy.

Also on this trip, my wife and I got to see Pope John Paul II speak. When we learned that this might be possible, I went back to Vatican City and asked for an invitation from a representative of the Swiss Guard, who provided it. The

next day, we went to St. Peter's Square, got our seats, and awaited the arrival of John Paul II.

He arrived a little later than expected, but also in a manner that was unexpected (at least to us). All of a sudden (and behind us) he was riding around in some type of Pope-mobile waving to the generally cheering crowd. He was smiling and seemed to dart from one part of St. Peter's Square to another fairly quickly. The enclosed Pope-mobile was apparently developed after he had survived the May 13, 1981 assassination attempt.

Greece the Next Year

In 2006, we headed to Athens. After spending several days in Athens, we took an inexpensive Greek Island cruise and tour. Because of the trip to Vatican City the prior year and the theological implications of the Greek trip, I got the idea that perhaps I should write a book about church history and prophecy.

Going to Greece was ideal as it brought parts of the New Testament alive. In Athens, Joyce and I climbed up on a rock that seemed interesting—it was Aeropagus Rock—the place where the Apostle Paul gave his famous “men of Athens” speech (Acts 17:22-31). The view from Aeropagus Rock helped me to better understand why the Apostle Paul said what he did then, as even in the 21st century, there are remains of enough pagan worship structures to make it clear that the Athenians were really into their pagan religions.

In addition to Athens, we were able to cruise to other places that the apostles went to including Crete (Titus 1:4), Rhodes (Acts 21:1-2), Ephesus (Acts 18:19-20), and Patmos (Revelation 1:9).

In Ephesus, we not only saw ancient Ephesus, but went through the house that many believe was the final home of Mary.

In Patmos, we visited what is commonly called the “Church of the Revelation” which was built over a cave that many believe is where the Apostle John received the “Revelation of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 1:1, DRB/NKJV).

Being in Patmos really got me thinking about Bible prophecy and being in Ephesus, the location of the last days of Mary.

But nothing about Fatima.

Not yet.

“2012 and the Rise of the Secret Sect”

Starting in 2006, I began to write a book on church history and end time prophecy. While researching for the book I bought scores of volumes of books on early Christianity, Catholic prophecy, and related subjects.

In early 2008, *Reuters* reported, “Sony Pictures has picked up disaster-movie king Roland Emmerich’s apocalyptic script ‘2012’.”³ And that got me to thinking that perhaps I could put together a book related to why the world would not end in a flood on December 21, 2012 as my history and prophecy book had enough references to get me started on that. And, of course this did involve doing more research, including going to Constantinople in 2008 and the Vatican in 2009.



*Inscription on the Basilica di San Giovanni in Lateran (June 2009)
Its translation means “Sacred Lateran Church Mother and Head of
All Churches of the City and the World” (cf. Revelation 17:5)*

My goal, which was met, was to get the *2012 and the Rise of the Secret Sect* book out prior to the release of Sony's 2012 movie in late 2009.

And what did that have to do with Fatima?

Actually, it had quite a bit to do with Fatima. Because of the prophetic research and travels, prophecies related to Mary, Fatima, and similar subjects came up.

Then in May of 2010, Pope Benedict XVI made certain comments about Fatima that I had reported about in one of my *Church History and End Time Examiner* columns. Shortly thereafter, someone who bought and read *2012 and the Rise of the Secret Sect*, gave me her copy of the Summer 2010 issue of a periodical called the *Fatima Crusader*. I was familiar with the publication, but this particular issue intrigued me further as it had several prophetic positions I found to be of interest.

While reading it, it occurred to me that perhaps I should write a book related to Fatima. So, I prayed about it and bought more books on Catholic prophecy and Fatima.

Around this time, a lady that I knew was going to go to Spain and France to view various Catholic saints known as "incorruptibles." After she returned, we discussed her trip and she lent me some literature she had on the "incorruptibles" as well as on Fatima.

Should Fátima, Portugal be Visited?

After doing more research, I consulted with some ordained members of the clergy that I knew about writing *Fatima Shock*. After getting their advice, I decided to put together a book about what I had started to learn. I also decided that if I was to write a book about Fatima, that my wife and I should actually go there.

Even though my wife and I had never been to Portugal (nor understood the language), there was one Portuguese

resident that I knew of (we had never met). His name was Carlos Duarte and he was the one that translated the book *2012 and the Rise of the Secret Sect* into Portuguese. I emailed and asked him what he thought of the project and he felt that writing a book about Fatima was a good idea. When he indicated that he would be willing to translate it into Portuguese, I got even more interested.

Why?

Because there were some writings about Fatima that were in the Portuguese language that I wanted translated and I figured that he would also be willing to translate some Portuguese information I had heard of. He agreed.

So, Joyce and I decided to visit Fatima.

In the meantime, I was conducting more research and some of the information seemed shocking. So much so, that I urge all readers to carefully check out the citations and references if they have concerns on any of the points this book reports.

Furthermore, how Fatima will likely affect people may come as a shock to most of them.

We go to Fátima, Portugal

Our first visit to Fatima was in late May 2011. Fatima is about 67 miles NNE of Lisbon. We stayed at a hotel named Santa Maria (Mary is translated as Maria in several languages including Latin, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese).

The Fatima sanctuary somewhat reminded us of a smaller version of Vatican City. We also walked in areas that the three children would have tended sheep, observed the visitors, asked questions, and took pictures. We checked out the houses and graves of the three shepherd children and some others involved with Fatima.

One thing to mention here is that, other than the size of *some* of them, the Marian statues that were sold in the 58 shops I checked out in Fatima or Aljustrel (a hamlet on the edge of Fatima) did not look like what the children originally claimed the Lady of the Rosary looked like. But they did resemble the statues in the Fatima Basilica and the Capelinha (these are shown in chapter 2).

When I asked a Fatima local about that, he stated that *the statues were only representations*. Yet I believe that nearly everyone who visited Fatima believed that the statues being sold were intended to be *accurate* representations of the Lady that appeared to the children. Also, none of the books I found that were sold in the religious shops or the bookstores provided accurate information about precisely what was seen (and yes, I asked employees who worked in them questions as most of the books were written in Portuguese).

Portugal in 1917, Fatima, and WWII

I long knew that in 1917-era Portugal there were communist and atheistic threats to that nation. This may be part of why certain Catholic officials decided to allow Catholics to believe in Fatima as a means to strengthen opposition to atheistic political groups, despite its theological flaws.

The fact that many of the messages were not written down until after they were fulfilled has been a concern to not only me, but to others who have investigated Fatima. The fact that the warning message intended to prevent World War II was kept away from the public until after WWII began is one of the more troubling aspects of Fatima.

For those who have already made up their mind about Fatima, this book hopefully will give many facts and ideas to consider. To those who are less certain, it is hoped that



Statue at Site of August 19, 1917 Apparition⁴ (2011)

it will provide some real certainty, not only about what happened in 1917, but what is expected to happen within the next decade or two.

Controversies and Book Matters

There are many controversies and sub-controversies associated with Fatima. Because some of the information is not verifiable to my satisfaction (or truly, in my opinion, always relevant), not all of the controversies are dealt with herein (or always to the degree various proponents of them would necessarily prefer). Certain points that will be raised in this book will likely be seen as controversial as well.

Readers should be aware, however, that the preponderance of quotes contained in this book originated from Catholic sources (while acknowledging that there is a variety of opinions and stark differences amongst many of them).

The uses of terms such as Lady, saint, blessed, incorruptible, venerable, mother, goddess, padre, sister, etc. within this text does not mean that I, the author, necessarily agree that those terms are correct in a theological sense. Those identifiers are used for historical clarification as they convey the presumed role that many feel those individuals had. The term “priest” is used instead of “Father” for scriptural consistency (cf. Matthew 23:9).

The primary scriptural translations used in this book are the *Douay-Rheims Bible*⁵ (a Catholic-approved translation of the Latin Vulgate into English), *The New Jerusalem Bible* (a Catholic-translation from the Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic, and in some passages, French understandings), and the *New King James Version*⁶ (a widely used Protestant translation from the original Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic languages). They will be listed as DRB, NJB, and NKJV respectively.

The majority of quotations in this text have been translated by someone else, as for example, those in Portuguese and Italian as I am not trained in those languages (I studied Latin in high school), hence translation issues are always possible. All brackets in quotes come from the sources cited, except those in { } which are words that I provided for clarity.

The use of the term “Catholic” in this book refers to the church based in Vatican City, for those otherwise known as “Roman Catholics.” Unless otherwise noted, “Catholic” does not refer to Anglicans, Eastern Orthodox, or others that sometimes use that term to describe themselves. The term “Church of God” refers to the original apostolic faith (cf. Ignatius’ *Letter to the Smyrnaeans*) and is not intended to include Pentecostal/Protestant groups that sometimes use that name today. The term “Fatimists” refers to those

who believe that Jesus' mother Mary appeared with a plan to try to save humankind in 1917 and who also specifically believe at least part of one of the messages has not yet been publicly revealed. Terms like "Certain Fatimist priests" are used sometimes to refer to writers of various publications associated with the Fatima Center (which is run by one or more Fatimist priests), as that Center does not always identify the precise writer in all of its related publications.

When there is a conflict, readers are urged to accept the authority of sacred scripture above "private revelation" (which is also the position in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*⁷). All "private revelations" should be understood within the bounds of scripture. Although Fatima has been accepted by the Vatican as a "worthy of belief" apparition,⁸ the Vatican "allows freedom in accepting or rejecting particular or private prophecies,"⁹ which means that it allows people to make up their own minds once they have the facts.

Even though some readers may come to different doctrinal conclusions than I believe that the facts of Fatima and Bible support, if you are one of them, please do not let that cause you to overlook the documented facts that this book holds.

Certain quotes have been shortened for space and/or to highlight certain points. Some of my conclusions will likely disagree with many whom this book quotes. Some sources will likely be challenged. It is always possible that errors in references/quotations/understandings may happen. The truth is still the truth, despite any limitations that I have in putting this together (and/or from the sources cited).

Please, read this book with a proper open mind. While everyone is entitled to their own opinion, hopefully this book contains enough documented facts to at least partially

support the idea that because of what has happened at, and with, Fatima, the entire world will be impacted by it in a way that has never happened before. What happened at Fatima, and that which will happen in the future, needs to be understood in the light of scripture.

This book is intended to help all to know more of the truth so they can be freed from deception (John 8:31-32), which has already been occurring (2 Thessalonians 2:7), but that will increase in more direct ways as we get closer to the final end (cf. Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-11).

Bob Thiel, Ph.D.
Summer 2012

My wife and I have again visited Vatican City and other places of religious interest.

I would like to add that since this book first came out, there have been two reactions: 1) "Finally, someone put together the documented truth about Fatima" and 2) Condemnation, mainly from those that have not read the book. Many are unwilling to believe what the Bible and selected Catholic-approved sources teach. Many have their minds made up and do not want to believe the documented truth.

Hopefully, you are one willing to "test the spirits" (NJB/NKJV) to "prove all thing" (KJV/DRB). If so, you should find this book of immense value.

Bob Thiel, Ph.D.
Summer 2017

1. WHY PAY ANY ATTENTION TO FATIMA?

Fatima was a small, little known, town in 1917 Portugal. Three little children claimed to see a Lady there and now Fatima is fairly well known. There are several reasons you should pay attention to it.

The modern story of Fatima began in 1915, when a girl named Lúcia dos Santos with some companions saw something in the air that they could not identify which did not seem to be of earthly origin.¹⁰

In 1916, some children including Lúcia, received messages from something that years later were said to have come from an angel.¹¹ That unusual visitor indicated that something else would happen in the future.

In the little known town of Fátima, Portugal, beginning on May 13, 1917, three children (Lúcia dos Santos, Jacinta Marto, and Francisco Marto) said they saw some type of female apparition six times, once per month. The monthly appearances culminated in a visit where tens of thousands of people claimed to witness some type of miracle/change in the sky on October 13, 1917. This apparition is now commonly referred to as “our Lady,” “the Lady,” or “the Virgin of Fatima” and multiple millions believe it was Mary herself.

So, why pay attention to this?

There are at least four reasons:

- 1) Some of the events claimed to have been predicted in 1917 have taken place. This has given the Fatima messages credibility even among non-Catholics.

- 2) The Fatima appearances, though not necessarily all the messages, have been somewhat accepted by the Vatican.¹² As there are at least 1-2 billion people with at least some minimal ties with the Church of Rome, this means that a huge number of people throughout the world have reasons to pay attention to the Fatima messages because of their religion.
- 3) Some of the Fatima messages are claimed to still be for the future. Whether people believe them or not, there will be repercussions from them. Some of those repercussions will likely shock the world. Some of them are scary. If you survive, you will be affected by their repercussions in the not too distant future.
- 4) Learning the truth about the shocking messages of Fatima could save you and your loved ones from making horrible mistakes.

Was Fatima Predicted by Anyone?

Some Catholics believe that the apparition came as the result of a prayer by Pope Benedict XV on May 5, 1917.¹³ Yet, many seem to be unaware that what could be considered as occult psychics in Portugal had earlier predicted that something of importance would occur on May 13, 1917.¹⁴ As some of these psychic predictions were documented in a few Portuguese newspapers, this made some without strong Catholic ties find Fatima to be of interest. Some actually believe the apparition was an alien, while others a demonic wonder.¹⁵

Interestingly, although the Lady of Fatima never claimed she was Mary or the Mother of Jesus, some Vatican officials have claimed:

1. WHY PAY ANY ATTENTION TO FATIMA?

Fatima is undoubtedly the most prophetic of modern apparitions.¹⁶

Since millions believe that the apparition was Mary of the Bible, and future apparitions claiming to be (or implying to be) Mary are expected, many people are likely to, at least partially, act in the future based upon the belief concerning the messages of Fatima as well as on messages from future apparitions.

Enough so, that if you survive for a long enough time, you will be affected in major ways.

2. THE ORIGINAL VERSIONS OF WHAT WAS SEEN

Many people believe that three children saw Mary, the Mother of Jesus, six times in Fatima, Portugal in 1917. Yet instead, the children saw a small lady wearing a short skirt and holding a pointed medallion. The Lady seemed to more closely resemble a pagan goddess than Mary and her appearance seems to have been predicted by occultist psychics.

Despite having reservations about what was seen, Lúcia later decided to accept the apparitions as from God anyway, despite the facts. Because Jacinta did not know the biblical truth about the devil, she allowed herself to rely on other beliefs to discount the non-Marian nature of the “Lady.”

The generally-related story of Fatima is that three innocent children were blessed to see an apparition who gave “secret” messages.¹⁷



The Three Shepherds, 1917 (Taken in Fatima, 2011)

While many people have assumed that it was Mary, the mother of Jesus, who appeared to the three children in Fatima,¹⁸ it would be wise to look at what was *originally* reported.

Specifically, on May 13, 1917, Lúcia dos Santos (age 10), Francisco Marto (9), and Jacinta Marto (7) claimed to see a female figure¹⁹ (the Martos were cousins of Lúcia). The children described the “Lady” as beautiful, approximately aged 15-18, and being only about forty-two inches tall (about 1.1 meters).²⁰ Lúcia’s mother Maria said Lúcia described her as “a small, pretty lady.”²¹

The “female” apparition did not identify herself on this first visit. The children provided descriptions of the Lady to Catholic authorities, some of whom had severe questions about what was actually seen in Fatima.

Early Testimony from Lúcia

Here is some of what Lúcia herself wrote about what they saw on May 13, 1917:

...we beheld a Lady all dressed in white...She... radiated a light...We stopped, astounded before the Apparition.²²

She also wrote that it sometimes held a ball (not a heart) in her hands.²³

Here is some of what the Parish Priest of Fatima, Manuel Marques Ferreira, wrote in 1917 that the children reported about the apparition:

The clothing was a white mantle, which fell from the head to below the skirt, which was golden from the waist to below the strings...The skirt was all white and gold... [and] fell only to the knees; the coat was white...no shoes, but white socks with no gold; about the neck there was a gold chain with a pointed medallion.²⁴

This skirt information came as a shock to me as I was unaware of it prior to late 2010. Later I learned that in the late 19th century, some wealthy people wore “Diana” costumes which featured a “short skirt” (Diana is often historically featured that way²⁵) along with a covering white tunic with gold spots.²⁶ This seemed remarkably similar to what the children claim to have seen in the early 20th century. A poem from the third century said Diana wore “half-boots. Her cloak is woven with gold thread,” while at least two mosaics from that period show her wearing a “short chiton” (a short tunic/skirt), and one has a cloak that goes over her head while a tapestry shows “that the ends of her cloak flatter on either side of her.”²⁷

One reason the Fatima skirt report is not well known is that Priest Ferreira’s report and similar documents were not widely released until 1992, 75 years later. In 1917 Portugal, not even “ladies of the night” wore such skirts as they would have been considered to be scandalously provocative.²⁸

Portuguese researchers Dr. Joaquim Fernandes (Professor of History at the University of Fernando Pessoa in Porto, Portugal) and Fina D’Armada speculated that the reason that the “skirt” information was not widely released until 1992 was that because by then much of the world would not find such descriptions of female apparel scandalous, ²⁹ yet nearly all of the pictures or statues allegedly of Mary of the Bible rarely show her wearing anything shorter than a dress down to the top of her feet.

Assumption and More Connections to the Goddess Diana

Perhaps it should be noted that the connection of the Lady of Fatima to Diana is more than merely the short skirt. Diana is usually “represented as a beautiful young woman,”³⁰ , and was known as the “revered virgin”³¹ and

“the Lady Artemis”³² (also as “the virgin”³³ or “the Lady of Ephesus”³⁴). There are suspected connections between her and how many people view Mary.³⁵ For example, “Diana... was called the *Mother of the World*”³⁶ as was Mary.³⁷

Researcher E.C. Brewer claimed that the ancient Ephesians’ views toward the image of Diana that allegedly fell from heaven (Acts 19:35-36) were similar to how many in Avignonet, France reportedly viewed the arrival of a particular Marian image in 1283.³⁸ The image was claimed to have arrived from heaven in order, apparently to support a Marian heresy and drive out those who had a more biblically appropriate view of Mary’s role.³⁹ Miriam Lambouras, an Eastern Orthodox writer, also reported that there seemed to be a connection between the goddess Diana and what was seen in Fatima.⁴⁰ The arrival of images and/or ladies “from heaven” had to be handled cautiously, as such arrivals are often demonically-inspired.

Some believe that the reason that August 15th was chosen as the day for the feast of the “Assumption of Mary” is that it was related to a similar festival for Diana.⁴¹ *The Catholic Encyclopedia* suggests questionable circumstances:

Regarding the day, year, and manner of Our Lady’s death, nothing certain is known... **The belief in the corporeal assumption of Mary is founded on the apocryphal treatise *De Obitu S. Dominae***, bearing the name of St. John, which belongs however to the fourth or fifth century. It is also found in the book *De Transitu Virginis*, falsely ascribed to St. Melito of Sardis, and in a spurious letter attributed to St. Denis the Areopagite... Regarding the origin of the feast we are also uncertain.⁴²

Thus, it is known that this dogma originated from false sources. It was not officially adopted as Catholic dogma until 1950.⁴³ Despite these facts, this teaching is believed by some to have caused the greatest ecumenical advancement ever for the Church of Rome.⁴⁴ Yet, both the Bible in the 1st century (John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54), and those like Saint Polycarp of Smyrna in the second century,⁴⁵ taught that Christians were awaiting the resurrection, not that some would be prematurely resurrected.

In the fourth century, the Catholic apologist Arnobius condemned Diana for having “half-covered thighs,”⁴⁶ which the Lady of Fatima could have displayed if she walked, sat, or any wind blew. In 906 A.D., Regino of Prüm wrote that certain women left the Catholic faith, “being seduced by the illusions and phantasms of demons” involving “the pagan goddess Diana.”⁴⁷ The Catholic saint Augustine specifically referred to Diana as one of several “false and lying deities.”⁴⁸ It would seem that apparitions that resemble Diana should be suspect to all Christians who agree with Augustine on that point.

While there are differences in appearance of Diana of Ephesus (who the Apostle Paul had problems because of in Acts 19:28-36) and her manifestation as Diana the huntress, there are clothed ancient representations of both of them with a short skirt, and one with a cape.

One cannot help but wonder why a claimed successor to the apostles would send a short-skirted pagan goddess as a gift. Yet, Pope Paul did so in 1556. Women dressed like Diana the Huntress would not have been allowed at proper Catholic functions in the 16th century.



"The cut (from a classic relic) shows the front of the temple of Ephesus, and the statue of Diana."⁴⁹



Statue of Diana the Huntress. Given to French King Henry II By Pope Paul IV in 1556.⁵⁰

Of course, Diana the huntress is often featured carrying a bow.⁵¹ And while the Lady of Fatima apparently did not display a bow, she could perhaps be considered one, like the Antichrist in Revelation 6:2 (who is shown in vision with a bow), who will try to conquer through messages that resemble parts of Christianity, but are improperly changed (cf. Galatians 1:6-8).

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a historical figure, not a mythological or demonic figure like the goddess Diana.⁵² The "Lady" that appeared in Fatima was not Mary.

Short Skirt Confirmed by Jacinta

In 1917, the Catholic priest and investigator Canon Manuel Nunes Formigão interviewed the three Fatima children.⁵³ Here is some of what he wrote:

Jacinta confirms that Our Lady's dress fell only to the knees... Our Lady obviously could not have appeared other than dressed with the utmost

decency and modesty...{This} constitutes a serious problem, opposing the very validity of the Apparition, giving rise in the spirit to the dread that this whole affair is a mystification, prepared by the Prince of Darkness.⁵⁴

And that is true, yet Canon Formigão essentially decided that since some Catholics claimed to have felt better (physically or spiritually) because of Fatima, he dismissed the eye witness testimony that he had received.⁵⁵ Yet, Mary would not have been dressed as culturally immodest as the apparition was described (cf. 1 Timothy 2:9-10). Whatever the children saw, we can be certain that it was not Jesus' mother.

Certain priests have written:

As Saint Thomas {Aquinas} teaches, there is no argument against a fact — *contra factum non argumentum est*. If a statement is contrary to fact, then no authority on earth can expect us to believe it.⁵⁶

To accept that the Lady who appeared at Fatima could possibly be Mary is an argument against biblical fact as "women are to wear suitable clothes and to be dressed quietly and modestly" (1 Timothy 2:9, NJB). Moreover, the fact is that Mary would not have appeared that way in 1917. The testimony from the only three who saw the Lady confirms that this was not Mary.

Because of the release of the documents of Priest Ferreira and Canon Formigão about the Lady's apparel,

Joaquim Fernandes and Fina D'Armada wrote related to the short skirt:

It could be said that this description of the Being, finally revealed in 1992, is the real secret of Fatima.⁵⁷

If more people knew the truth about this they may have viewed Fatima as something not from God.

Partially to test this hypothesis, on October 11, 2010, I asked a Catholic woman who had once been to Fatima on a religious pilgrimage, if the three children saw an apparition that was wearing a skirt shorter than even harlots in 1917 Portugal wore, if she thought that this could possibly be Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

She responded with, “No, I would think that it was the devil.”

So, I explained to her that in mid 1917 both her parish priest and Lúcia thought that the Lady of Fatima was probably the devil. She was shocked to learn this. She was also shocked to learn that Canon Formigão still supported Fatima after confirming with Jacinta (and another of the children) that the apparition wore a short skirt.

It has been speculated that because Jacinta told Canon Formigão that the Lady mentioned him by name, this may be part of why he was willing to overlook the skirt fact.⁵⁸ I found it interesting that Canon Formigão's large mausoleum is the first thing I saw when visiting the cemetery in Fatima – it is at the entrance. Apparently some wanted Fatima's promoter to be prominent.



Mausoleum of Canon Formigão (2011)

Notice the dress standard that certain Catholic Fatimist priests have endorsed:

...skirts with hemlines or slits which do not cover the leg below the knee — are absolutely contrary to the norms of Christian modesty... Feminine apparel is a skirt or a dress which must cover the woman's knees when she is seated.⁵⁹

Padre Pio...refused time and again to absolve any woman, no matter how important she was, who did not wear her skirts well below the knee.⁶⁰

Thus, it should be clear from certain Catholic perspectives that the presence of a skirt that was to or above the knees should absolutely rule out any possibility that the "Lady" who was seen at Fatima could have been Mary of the Bible.

Lúcia, Her Mother, and the Local Parish Priest Believed the Apparition Might be of the Devil

Even Lúcia had major doubts about what she saw at first, while her mother, Maria Rosa, thought that if Lúcia was not making the story up, it was likely to be “the devil’s trick.”⁶¹

The short skirt might explain why Lúcia thought the apparition she saw on June 13, 1917 may have been the devil. Because of her concerns that the Lady may be the devil, Lúcia actually claimed she would not go to see it again:

I began to have doubts as to whether these manifestations might be from the devil.⁶²

I had a dream which only increased my darkness of my spirit. I saw the devil laughing at having deceived me...I’m afraid that it might be the devil appearing to us, and for that reason I’m not going.⁶³

Francisco...saw me perplexed...and said, “But how can you think this is the devil? ...Aren’t you going?”...

“I’m not going. I’ve already told you I’m not going back there anymore.”⁶⁴

But, Lúcia, apparently because of peer pressure, ended up going in contradiction to her repeated statements (she also broke another promise because of peer pressure as well that year).⁶⁵

When the three children told their parish priest what they saw, he said:

“It doesn’t sound to me like a revelation from heaven...This may also be a deceit of the devil.”⁶⁶

Lúcia was also asked questions by a Priest Faustino, and she later wrote:

He...asked me the same questions...After this interrogation; my doubt was stronger than ever.⁶⁷

Thus, the initial investigations of this matter by Catholic officials pointed to the apparition of the Lady being manifestation of the devil and Lúcia seemed to agree.

Yet, it may be of interest to note that Lúcia later wrote that, she intentionally lied to avoid meeting with her parish priest.⁶⁸ Perhaps his quest for the truth interfered with her hopes for importance.

Which of These Could Not Possibly Be Mary of the Bible?

The Catholic Encyclopedia teaches, "No picture has preserved for us the true likeness of Mary."⁶⁹ And that, of course, is correct.

Based upon the general consensus that Mary would have not violated cultural norms for modesty in 1917 Portugal (cf. 1 Timothy 2:9), which of the following could not possibly be the Mary of the Bible?



*Fatima Capelinha
Statue*



Description of Witnesses



*Fatima Basilica
Statue*

Which of the preceding images does not look like what the children described?

Obviously, neither the Capelinha statue nor the Basilica statue fit the 1917 descriptions (also the apparition was not wearing a crown in 1917 – this was added in 1946⁷⁰). The short-skirted one in the middle holding a pointed ball much more closely fits the description of the children.⁷¹

Thus, it should be clear to any with eyes to see (cf. Ezekiel 12:2) that what the three child witnesses claimed to see was definitely NOT Mary of the Bible.

Portuguese researcher Moisés Espírito Santo correctly noted:

The fact is that, at that time, a respectable lady did not wear knee-length skirts or even a little below the knee but down to the ankles like Lúcia, Jacinta and their mothers. From this one concludes that the vision was not Mary Mother of Jesus, Our Lady of the Catholics.⁷²

Oddly, with the Fatima appearance on September 13, 1917, Priest João Quaresma (who later on became Vicar General of Leiria) claimed he saw a “clearly and distinctly luminous globe that moved from the east to the west” and was convinced it was “Our Lady.”⁷³ “Luminous globes” are often mentioned by people who claim to see aliens/UFOs.⁷⁴ In its article titled “Spiritism,” *The Catholic Encyclopedia* specifically warns against “luminous appearances.”⁷⁵

Does Mary actually look like a lighted globe?

No, Mary doesn’t look like a luminous globe, nor does she look like a woman wearing culturally immodest clothing like the goddess Diana.

Little Jacinta was Unaware of the Biblical Truth about the Devil

"The devil...is called the 'deceiver'."⁷⁶ The devil is described in scripture as "that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9, NKJV) or "that old serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, seduceth the whole world" (DRB) or "led all the world astray" (NJB).

Deception is something that the devil does.

Could Jacinta have been deceived?

Sadly, it appears so.

Jacinta claimed that the apparition was not the devil, because she said, "the devil is very ugly and he is down under the ground."⁷⁷

Scripture is clear that the devil is not ugly nor is he currently confined below the ground:

14 Satan himself transformeth himself into an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14, DRB)

The Spirit has explicitly said that during the last times some will desert the faith and pay attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines that come from devils (1 Timothy 4:1, NJB)

1 Then Jesus was led by the spirit into the desert, to be tempted by the devil...Then Jesus saith to him: Begone... (Matthew 4:1, 10, DRB).

Jacinta, who was only age 7, may have understood that the apparition could have been the devil if she knew what the Bible actually taught about Satan the devil. The fact that Jacinta was scripturally wrong on these points suggests that she could easily be deceived by a demonic apparition.

The Apparition on May 13, 1917 Seems to Have Been Predicted by Occultists

A group of occult psychics in Portu, Portugal claimed that “something transcendental” would occur on May 13, 1917. And this was published in the Portuguese newspaper *Jornal de Notícias*.⁷⁸

There was another prediction claimed to have been written on February 7, 1917 in Furtado de Mendonça, Portugal by way of “automatic writing” that moved the psychic’s hand and wrote the following backwards (and in Portuguese):

The day of May 13th will be one of great happiness for the good souls of the world...Always at your side shall ye have your friends, who will guide your steps and who will assist ye in your work...The brilliant light of the Morning Star will illuminate the path.

~ Stella Matutina⁷⁹

So the above occult prophecy claimed that a light-bringer would illuminate a path on May 13, 1917. Stella is Latin for star. Matutina is associated with the morning. It may be relevant to note that the name Lucifer means light-bringer, and he is associated in sacred scripture with both the morning and stars (Isaiah 14:12-13), as well as becoming known as Satan the devil (Revelation 12:9). Although Jesus is also called the “Morning Star” (Revelation 22:16), using the type of automatic backward writing to reveal His mother does not seem to be biblically appropriate (cf. Isaiah 8:19-20), hence it should not be concluded that this Stella Matutina was Jesus.

Since “Venus” is widely known as the “Morning Star,” some have suggested an alien or cultic connection with the prophecy.⁸⁰

Interestingly, some Catholics have sometimes identified Mary of the Bible with the term “Morning Star.” Notice these two accounts from Catholic clergy in the 19th century:

Amongst the stars in the heavens, there is one which is called *Stella Matutina* – the Morning Star, and under this title Mary is honored and addressed...⁸¹

Mary is the *Stella Matutina*; the Morning Star.⁸²

While at first glance seeing what was written by the psychic and the fact that something appeared in Fatima on May 13, 1917, the connection between the two may suggest this was the Mary of the Bible. Caution for all is advised before drawing that conclusion.

The Catholic Encyclopedia in 1912 specifically condemned “spiritism” and its practices including specifically “automatic writing.”⁸³ So, obviously Catholics would not want to accept the prophecy of a “*Stella Matutina*” from such psychics as announcing Mary of the Bible. Joaquim Fernandes and Fina D’Armada asked:

Would Our Lady use a means of communication refuted by the very religious hierarchy that venerates her?⁸⁴

That is a valid question. And the answer in this instance is no. But an appeal to psychics could be something that Satan may have helped orchestrate to try to appeal to non-Catholics to support a coming ecumenical religion he will be behind (2 Thessalonians 2:7-11), and that may call itself

“Catholic” (and this is consistent with certain reputable Catholic interpretations of 2 Thessalonians 2:7-11 as well as certain Catholic prophecies⁸⁶).

Would Jesus’ Mother Want to Publicly Honor Herself?

But is there any other way to demonstrate that the Lady at Fatima could not have been Mary?



Capelinha, Fatima (2011)

Yes.

Notice what Lúcia wrote that the apparition said on October 13, 1917:

I want to tell to you that a chapel is to be built here in my honour.⁸⁷

That not only is immodest, it seems to violate what the Bible tells people to do:

31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatsoever else you do, **do all to the glory of God.** (1 Corinthians 10:31, DRB)

29 ...no flesh should glory in his sight... (1
Corinthians 1:29, DRB)

11 ...every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ
is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians
2:11, DRB)

9 Not to us, O Lord, not to us; but to thy name give
glory. (Psalms 113:9, DRB)

Mary is not God. Despite her role as the mother of Christ (and yes, I believe that Jesus is God lest someone criticize me for using this expression), no proper Roman or Eastern Orthodox Catholic (or Protestant for that matter) believes that Mary is God either.

It is important to note that the apparition wanted a chapel built essentially for *her* glory. That is not what a true follower of Christ would have done. Mary of the Bible did not do that nor drop any hint that she ever would do that. A “Marian” apparition that appeared to Estelle Faguette at Pellevoisin, France in 1876 said, “I choose the little ones and the weak ones for my glory.”⁸⁸ But God specifically said the weak were chosen for His (not Mary’s) glory (1 Corinthians 1:27-29), so that apparition was false also. Actually, statements from many “approved apparitions” have requested actions for their glory or otherwise contradicted scripture.⁸⁹

Lúcia also claimed to have had a visit from the apparition on December 10, 1925 (about when she went to Tuy, Spain, she was relocated to Pontevedra, Spain the next day and then back to Tuy in July 1926⁹⁰). She stated that the apparition wanted the prayer sequence of the rosary done multiple times “with the intention of making reparations to me” and that the apparition would “assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation.”⁹¹ The *Fatima*

Crusader even claims “The Fatima Message: Salvation and Peace through Reparation.”⁹² Yet, the Bible never says that any one is supposed to make reparations to Mary, or that she can provide any graces for salvation. The Bible states that grace for salvation is a “gift of God” and is not from any human (Ephesians 2:8-9, DRB).

The Apparition Did Not Behave Like Many Have Assumed

Having read Lúcia’s writings, as well as from testimonies ascribed to her, Jacinta, and Francisco, it should be pointed out that in 1917, the apparition:

1. Did not refer to herself as Mary.
2. Did not refer worship to Jesus.
3. Referred to the Lady of the Rosary.
4. Wanted a chapel built for her glory.
5. Was not dressed in a properly modest manner for the time and culture.

Even if the apparition possibly later called herself Mary, was dressed appropriately, and referred worship to Jesus, certain aspects of the Fatima “messages” opposed scripture.

Furthermore, while some believe that the title “Lady of the Rosary” proves that she was Mary, there are some issues with that (see also the Appendix). Jacinta told Canon Formigão on November 2, 1917:

She said for us to build a chapel there but I do not remember if She said ‘to Our Lady of the Rosary’ or ‘I am the Lady of the Rosary.’⁹³

And Lúcia? Notice her testimony and a comment:

“Build a chapel to Our Lady of the Rosary.” Lúcia has doubts if this is what was said or if it was, “Build a chapel here. I am the Lady of the Rosary” (cf. the Parochial Inquiry).⁹⁴

In 1918, notice what Lúcia told a grocery store owner named Joaquina Vieira about what she saw in 1917:

Joaquina Vieira: Hey, Lúcia, what did you see?

Lúcia: I saw a Lady...I asked her who she was.

Joaquina Vieira: And, what did She reply?

Lúcia: She pointed her finger to the sky.⁹⁵

So, either Lúcia was lying then, was intentionally misleading, forgot, or simply did not believe then that the Lady plainly identified herself as the “Lady of the Rosary” in 1918.

Either way, the Lady of Fatima never declared that she was Mary of the Bible according to the 1917 testimonies of the primary witnesses.

Perhaps it should be mentioned that the Lady that appeared on the 19th of September, 1846 in La Salette, France never said she was Mary either according to the witness Maximin Giraud. He said, “I saw a lady, but never ventured to affirm that it was the Holy Virgin” (he also reported false prophecies such as that the Antichrist would arrive in the end of the 19th or commencement of the 20th centuries).⁹⁶

3. WHY DOES WHAT MANY BELIEVE DIFFER SO DRASTICALLY FROM WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY REPORTED?

Partially because written records on what was seen was not widely reported in its entirety until 1992, it was almost impossible to know the whole truth until recently.

A shocking fact that many who follow Fatima do not seem to realize is that at least two of the three children repeatedly broke their word and otherwise had credibility problems that do not seem to have been highlighted in most of the books about Fatima. Another shocking fact is that the children were AFRAID of the "Lady of Fatima."

There also seems to be contradictions about the Fatima message and Russia that many have overlooked.

While various writers imply that the Vatican has approved the messages of Fatima that is not quite the case.

There are several reasons that what is commonly believed about Fatima is different from what was originally reported and not reported. This goes back to at least 1917. One reason is that certain details of the investigations by the Catholic clergy into Fatima were not made available to the public prior to 1992 (and even then the release was in the Portuguese language and was not been picked up in most of the English language books or other publications I have seen on Fatima that came out after 1992). By the

closing years of the 20th century, Fatima had become so integrated with Catholic devotion that the publication of the details didn't seem to have made much of a difference.

Furthermore, in Fatima itself, I could not find one book that had the truth about the 1917 short skirt report for public sale. Even though there are some books on the internet and elsewhere, their limited availability contributes to the reason why most people do not realize what really happened.

At Least Two of the Children Repeatedly Broke Their Word

Related to May 13, 1917, Lúcia wrote:

We agreed never to reveal to anyone the words that Our Lady spoke to us that day.⁹⁷

This, of course, creates a problem when one researches this matter as all three of the witnesses broke that, as well as other, promises. Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone (Vatican City Cardinal Secretary of State since 2007) reported:

Jacinta was the first one to break the pact.⁹⁸

Lúcia wrote that the Lady told her to learn how to read when the apparition appeared in 1917. Yet, notice the following:

Canon Formigão...the investigator asked her if, in the obedience to the Blessed Virgin's request, she had started to learn to read. "No," she replied, "I haven't begun yet."

"Is that how you obey the Lady?" demanded the Canon. Lúcia remained silent.⁹⁹

So, Lúcia must have been hesitant to truly believe that what she originally saw was the biblical Mary or she must have been a particularly disobedient child—either way those are both credibility problems. But there were more credibility issues for Lúcia.

Original Pre-Lady Recollections Contained Doubts, and Later were Contradicted

As mentioned before, Lúcia initially saw some type of apparition in 1915. She wrote the following about it in her *Second Memoir* finished on November 21, 1937:

...we saw a figure poised in the air above the trees; it looked like a statue made of snow, rendered almost transparent by the rays of the sun.

“What is that?” asked my companions, quite frightened.

“I don’t know!”¹⁰⁰

Lúcia saw some type of apparition in 1916 and wrote the following about it in the same memoir:

“I don’t know Mother. I don’t know what it is!”¹⁰¹

A short time later in 1916, Lúcia wrote (in 1937) that she saw something that said it was an angel:

It was a young man, about fourteen or fifteen years old, whiter than snow, transparent as crystal when the sun shines through it, and of great beauty. On reaching us, he said:

“Do not be afraid! I am the Angel of Peace...You will thus draw down peace upon your country. I am its Angel Guardian, the Angel of Portugal.” ...

As soon as we arrived there, we...began to repeat the prayer of the Angel...We sprang up to see what was happening, and beheld the Angel...the Angel knelt down beside us...¹⁰²

She also (in 1937) claimed to have had other recollections of the Angel in 1917.¹⁰³ She also wrote that in 1917 she specifically told Francisco and Jacinta not to mention "the Angel."¹⁰⁴

So, imagine my shock when I compared what she wrote with the following from Joaquim Fernandes and Fina D'Armada:

It is important to keep in mind that Lúcia wrote, in her own hand, about Our Lady of Heaven, in 1922 – and nowhere does she mention "angels." In 1924, she was submitted to a rigorous, official interrogation by the ecclesiastical authorities. There was no mention of her observing any "angels" there, either. Her deposition was read back to her and she was allowed to make corrections. **She took an oath on the Holy Bible about not having seen anything else "until today."** Either she lied under oath, or in 1924 she did yet recall having been "prepared."¹⁰⁵

So, Lúcia repeatedly testified that she did not know what she saw in the apparitions of 1915 and 1916. Yet, later she repeatedly wrote that she did in great detail. This seriously affects her testimony as a witness.

While I do not doubt that Lúcia may have seen some type of being in 1916, there is no possible way it was an angel from God who was watching over Portugal as she later claimed. For one reason, there does not seem to be

any evidence that Lúcia helped “draw down peace” back then as Portugal was involved in World War I until 1918 which officially ended in late 1918.

For another, why would someone lie about seeing an angel of God?

If Lúcia's Testimony is Correct, Jacinta had Many Problems Keeping Her Word

In her memoirs, Lúcia conveyed the following story about herself and Jacinta:

13th day of May 1917...Jacinta kept breaking into enthusiastic exclamations:

“Oh, what a beautiful lady!”

“I can see what's going to happen,” I said, “you'll end up saying that to someone else.”

“No, I won't,” she answered “don't worry.”

Next day, Francisco came running to tell me how she had told them everything at home the night before...

“Forgive me. I won't tell anybody anything ever again.” ¹⁰⁶

Thus, Lúcia is indicating that Jacinta's word was no good. Jacinta did, on other occasions, reveal information that she apparently (according to Lúcia) said she would not reveal.



Bob Thiel at Francisco's & Jacinta's house & Joyce Thiel at Lúcia's House (2011)

Lúcia similarly wrote that on 14 May 1917, Jacinta said the following:

How good that Lady is! She has already promised to take us to heaven!¹⁰⁷

So, according to Lúcia, Jacinta was promised to be taken to heaven by a Lady on May 13, 1917 (which is also consistent with Lúcia's *Fourth Memoir*¹⁰⁸). But there are at least two problems with this.

The first is that Lúcia was not convinced that the Lady was good at this time — she thought the apparition “may be the devil.”¹⁰⁹

The second is that Jacinta, on October 11, 1917 according to Canon Formigão, apparently claimed that the Lady had not secretly promised to take her to heaven (presuming no date issues).¹¹⁰ Yet, that flat out heaven matter was something that Lúcia said the apparition had promised on May 13, 1917.¹¹¹

Also, according to Lúcia, sometime between 14–31 May 1917, Jacinta (related to the fact she violated her earlier promise and told her family about the apparition AND going to heaven) declared:

“I did wrong,” she said through her tears, “but I will never tell anything to anybody again.”¹¹²

But, Jacinta later broke that promise as well.

People Knelt Before the Three Children

Lúcia wrote that they apparently allowed people to kneel before them:

The roads were packed with people...they threw themselves on their knees before us, begging us... these people so humbled themselves before three poor children...¹¹³

Biblical leaders, such as the Apostles Peter (Acts 10:25-26) and Paul (cf. Acts 14:9-18), did not allow people to do such things. But, the three children did.

All Three Children were Afraid of the Apparition

Shortly after Jacinta claimed the apparition was not the devil, Lúcia claimed that the following happened to her:

I had a dream which only increased the darkness of my spirit. I saw the devil laughing at having deceived me...The 13th of July was now at hand, and I was still doubtful as to whether I should go. I thought to myself: “If it’s the devil, why should I go see him?...I’m afraid it may be the devil who is appearing to us, and for that reason I’m not going...” I called Jacinta and Francisco, and told them ...“No, I’m not going. Listen! If the Lady asks for me, tell her I’m not going because I’m afraid it may be the devil.”

I left them...The following day...I suddenly felt I had to go, impelled by some strange force that I could hardly resist.¹¹⁴

Francisco and Jacinta were apparently so afraid of the apparition that they refused to go unless Lúcia went with them, so they all went together.¹¹⁵

Perhaps it should be mentioned that Lúcia, Francisco, and Jacinta would sometimes intentionally cause themselves pain as they would mutually agree to “offer this sacrifice to God” (such as inflicting “terrible suffering” through intentionally tying rough ropes around their waists that caused tears).¹¹⁶ The God of the Holy Bible never suggests that children are to inflict intentional pain upon themselves (cf. 3 John 2). Jesus repeatedly taught, “I will have mercy and not sacrifice” (Matthew 9:13; 12:7, DRB). Yet, Lúcia wrote that the Lady kept telling the children to do sacrifices.¹¹⁷ Notice, for one example, what she wrote Jacinta said:

That Lady told us to say the Rosary and to make sacrifices for the conversion of sinners.¹¹⁸

The Apostle Paul wrote:

8 In saying before, Sacrifices, and oblations, and holocausts for sin thou wouldest not, neither are they pleasing to thee, which are offered according to the law... 12 **He, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins**, and then taken his seat for ever, at the right hand of God...14 By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all who are sanctified. (Hebrews 10:8, 12, 14 DRB)

So, the word of God says Jesus made the ONE sacrifice for sinners.

Christians normally consider that Mary of the Bible would be kind and comforting, especially to children. Yet, the three children of Fatima were afraid of the apparition and hurt themselves because of her words. Should they really have been afraid of Mary of the Bible? Would Mary really tell children to hurt themselves?

Lúcia Did Not Do as Jacinta Said

On January 21, 1920, according to Lúcia, Jacinta told her:

Never tell the Secret to anyone, even if they kill you.¹¹⁹

Notice that it was called “the Secret.” Later, Lúcia ended up telling *multiple* secrets and hence did not comply with Jacinta’s last request to her. And if it is “the Secret” and it involved possibly preventing World War II (as many believe the second secret was intended for), why would Jacinta say that it should never be revealed?

One part of Lúcia’s writings that struck me as odd is that she and Jacinta never would tell the secrets while Jacinta was alive, no matter how many priests and bishops tried to get it out of them. Yet later, Lúcia finished writing the following on August 31, 1941 for an October 1942 expanded edition of a book about Jacinta:

What is the secret? It seems to me that I can reveal it, since I already have permission from Heaven to do so. God’s representatives on earth have authorized me to do this several times and in various letters, one of which, I believe, is in your keeping.¹²⁰

The logic she used seems to be a problem.

Since the apparition in 1917 said to keep various secrets, and the children felt that included not ever telling priests and bishops, she should not have changed her view of this (cf. 1 Kings 13, NJB). Yet Lúcia did. And even when she did (allegedly because another apparition said she could), she still did not disclose what is known as the third secret until later.

Lúcia Silenced in 1921

The Bishop of Leiria, José Alves Correia da Silva, had Lúcia silenced and quarantined against her will in June 1921 as he wanted her not to have contact with many.¹²¹ Lúcia wrote:

The Bishop replied that I would be better off going to Porto, as I was still unknown there...I was not to receive any visitors besides the ladies taking care of me...that I was not to write to anyone, besides my mother...that I was not to return to Fátima for vacation, or other reason, without his permission...I did not know where Porto was and I did not know anyone there! These thoughts and reflections caused me such great sadness that going to Porto, it seemed that I WOULD BE BURIED ALIVE IN A SEPULCHRE, and I told myself privately. "No, I will not go."¹²²

"Lúcia...was very clear: she compared her fate to being 'buried alive in a sepulcher.' She refused to go...She would later enter a cloistered convent..."¹²³ She was not trusted.

One Prophecy of Fatima Thus Far Seems False

While many point out that certain Fatima "secrets" have come to pass as proof that they were approved by God, not all have.

Notice the following from a July 15, 1946 interview that Catholic historian William Thomas Walsh held with Lúcia:

She...said more than once, and with deliberate emphasis: 'What Our Lady wants is that the Pope and all the bishops in the world shall consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart on one special day. If this is done, she will convert Russia and there will be peace. If it is not done, the errors of Russia will spread through every country in the world.'

"Does this mean, in your opinion, that every country, without exception, will be overcome by Communism?"

'Yes.'¹²⁴



Sister Lucy 1946 (Taken in Her Former Home in 2011)

Now there is controversy associated as to if this consecration was ever done properly. Cardinal Bertone insists that Lúcia says it was in 1984.¹²⁵ Yet, many priests and other Fatima watchers have indicated that since the consecration that Cardinal Bertone referred to, like previous “consecrations,” was not specific to Russia and did not involve enough bishops, that the consecration remains to be done.

According to the August 1987 edition of *Para Ti* (an Argentinean journal) “on July 20, 1987, Sister Lucy...told journalist Enrique Romero that the Consecration of Russia was not done as requested.”¹²⁶ It is believed by some that to do this consecration now “would bring all dialogue between the Holy See and the Russian Orthodox Church to a screeching halt”¹²⁷ (as they tend to consider it an insult against their nation and faith).

On the other hand, in May 2011, Bishop Fortunatus Lukanima claimed:

If Russia is consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and is converted, then a lot of things will, indeed, improve and there will be peace.¹²⁸

Some Fatimists, like Priest Nicholas Gruner, claim that if the consecration is ever done properly it would involve 5,000 bishops who would do a “prayer that would last anywhere from 5 to 10 minutes and that is all that would be required to achieve this goal of peace, harmony, prosperity, and goodwill. It would make everyone’s eternal salvation easier to achieve...”¹²⁹ Yet, that position is not biblical as it is the return of Jesus, and not the consecration of Russia, which the Bible teaches would lead to that type of world (cf. Revelation 20:1-6; 22:3-5).

Furthermore, if the consecration was properly done in the past as some have claimed, the Lady was supposed to

have converted Russia to “Her Immaculate Heart.” But that simply has not happened. And decades later than the reported consecration, while more Russians consider themselves Orthodox, “church attendance remains low”¹³⁰ and relatively few Russians consider themselves to be Roman Catholic.

Priest Joaquin M. Alonso reported, that according to Lúcia:

The conversion of Russia is not to be limited to the return of the Russian Peoples to the Orthodox Christian religions...but rather, it refers purely, plainly and simply to the total, integral conversion of Russia to the one true Church of Christ, the Catholic Church.¹³¹

Well, although there are ecumenical and other discussions between the Vatican and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill,¹³² Russia has not embraced the Church of Rome as its faith (though the Russian Orthodox will likely, temporarily, make some type of an ecumenical deal).

On the other hand, if it had not been done as many have insisted,¹³³ we still have not seen every country in the world overtaken by Russia Communism—and this is nearly a century after the apparition allegedly first called for the consecration. Lúcia was wrong when she claimed that the entire world would otherwise become Communist. Some may claim that this event is for the future still, but I do not believe that the Bible allows for Russian communism to take over the world. The Bible, and certain Catholic prophetic writings, suggests that it will be a European power (which will at first claim to support ecumenical Catholicism¹³⁴) that will betray the Church of Rome (Revelation 17:16), but

a power like a Russian-led confederation will later attack Europe,¹³⁵ per Daniel 11:44.

Thus, at least one prophecy of Fatima, as Lúcia understood it related to Russian communism, appears to have been false or, at least, highly delayed.

Those Familiar with the Details Know that Lúcia had Problems with Her Testimony

Relatively few people are aware that Lúcia's testimony is often contradictory and full of errors.

Some suspect that this may be why Lúcia was cloistered against her will.¹³⁶ Although I have had people suggest to me that she became a nun as she felt so led of God, it may simply be that because she was cloistered she felt she had little choice as her Bishop pressured her.¹³⁷

Her problems with dates and details may very well have been one of the reasons.

Even Lúcia's supporters have written that she had issues when it came to various facts. Notice, for example, the following which is in the introduction to Lúcia's own book about Fatima, by Dr. Joaquin M. Alonso:

First of all, let us remember that Lúcia's manuscripts do indeed reveal a certain lack of literary education ...her style is influenced occasionally by the somewhat flowery conventual literature... Intellectual criticism will discover some mistakes in dates, events and circumstances. Even if she assures us in critical moments that she is indeed giving...the very words of the Blessed Virgin herself, this really means nothing other than she is trying to be as honest as possible...As far as dates are concerned, Lúcia's uncertainty is well known...¹³⁸

Dr. Alonso also discussed the idea specifically that her writings did not have “inerrancy.”¹³⁹ He also repeatedly referred to Lúcia’s writings as “reminiscences,” perhaps implying that he hoped people who overlook the fact that they did not always agree amongst themselves, with sacred scripture, and/or certain Catholic positions.

As far as “coventual literature” involvement, let me simply state that some of her writings related to the messages sometimes seem to have been slightly reworded copies of Catholic literature that she may have been exposed to after seeing the apparitions (while in a convent) and before writing the secrets.¹⁴⁰

Because of her problem with dates, it should be noted that one or more of the “three secrets” was most likely given on June 13, and not July 13, 1917 as commonly believed (and Lúcia indicated later), when Lúcia and her parish priest believed that the apparition may have been the devil. Notice:

“When were you told the secret?” the Canon Formigão asked Lúcia on October 13th.

“As I recall, it was the second time,” she replied.¹⁴¹

The second time was June 13, 1917. Despite giving contradictory testimonies, Lúcia claimed that God had graced her with a “quite favored” memory.¹⁴²

But Hasn’t the Vatican Accepted Fatima?

Some will discount what is reported here with a variety of broad brushed and sometimes specific (though likely, sometimes, improper) reasons. But one of the more common excuses amongst Catholics may be the common belief that the Vatican has accepted Fatima.

Despite “the miracle of the sun” on October 13, 1917 (of which there were many differing accounts¹⁴³ and hence not the clear “proof” the Lady said it would be), it was not until October 13, 1930 that the Fatima apparitions were declared “worthy of belief” by Pope Pius XI.¹⁴⁴ Yet, “worthy of belief” is not the same as acceptance as truth or dogma. (Interestingly, a photo purported to be “the miracle of the sun” in 1917 which was also published in *Life Magazine* as proof of Fatima,¹⁴⁵ turned out to be from 1922 and not 1917.¹⁴⁶)

Furthermore, Pius XI seemed to doubt much about Fatima himself.¹⁴⁷ Lúcia wrote on May 18, 1936 that “the Holy Father probably will not believe me.”¹⁴⁸ So, despite allowing lay members to believe that something happened in Fatima, Lúcia felt that Pope Pius XI doubted her.

Even though the Church of Rome has accepted that the three children saw apparitions in 1917, Rome has historically placed several reservations on this and related matters.

First of all, and well before the Fatima apparitions, notice the late 18th century written position of Prospero Lambertini, who is known as Pope Benedict XIV, on “private prophecy”:

In authorizing a private revelation, the Church merely consents to its divulgation...Even when such revelations are approved by the Church, however, they cannot be given the assent of the Catholic faith.¹⁴⁹

In other words, no matter what anyone says about Fatima, since it is what the Vatican has deemed a “private revelation” it should not and “cannot be given the assent of

the Catholic faith" (and this is true even if the Vatican later changes its position).

Second, notice what then Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, wrote specifically about Fatima and private prophecy:

...phenomena such as Fatima are to be understood within the life of faith. The teaching of the Church distinguishes between "public Revelation" and "private revelations". The two realities differ not only in degree but also in essence. The term "public Revelation" refers to the revealing action of God directed to humanity as a whole and which finds its literary expression in the two parts of the Bible: the Old and New Testaments...

The criterion for the truth and value of a private revelation is therefore its orientation to Christ himself. When it leads us away from him, when it becomes independent of him or even presents itself as another and better plan of salvation, more important than the Gospel, then it certainly does not come from the Holy Spirit...¹⁵⁰

Third, notice that the above is totally consistent to what the current *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches on "private prophecy" and sacred scripture:

Throughout the ages, there have been so-called 'private' revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church... It is not their role to complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history.¹⁵¹

Fourth, notice what, in a book about Fatima, Cardinal Bertone wrote:

True visions or apparitions come to people who are totally balanced. True visionaries do not contradict themselves...¹⁵²

Yet, Lúcia, the primary writer and longest-living witness of the multiple Fatima apparitions, often contradicted herself and scripture.

Fifth, on February 8, 1960, in the Portuguese press agency A.N.I. published the following statement from the Vatican:

Although the Church recognizes the Fatima apparitions, she does not pledge herself to guarantee the veracity of the words which the three shepherds claim to have heard from Our Lady.¹⁵³

Thus, Lúcia and Jacinta (the only two that claimed to hear any words from the apparitions in 1917) were not considered sufficiently credible by the Vatican in 1960—and the Vatican refused to endorse their messages as authentic. Even if the Vatican ever changes its position on Fatima, the fact is that Catholic leaders have long noticed that the shepherds had credibility problems and all should know that a 1917 apparition with a short skirt could not possibly be Mary of the Bible.

It has been reported that “Pope Leo XIII taught that the Catholic Church has nothing to fear from the truth.”¹⁵⁴ So, hopefully no Catholic (or anyone else) will be offended with the truths I have tried to document by quoting sacred scripture and comparing it to messages from apparitions.

If even Catholics are not required to accept Vatican-approved private revelations nor are they to accept any messages from them that contradict sacred scripture, why is Fatima at all relevant?

Fatima is relevant to us, because despite repeated warning from the Catholic Church as well as warnings in the Bible, people have overlooked its errors and dangers. So much so, that possibly partially because of Fatima, many people on earth will be deceived about accepting the coming Beast power (cf. Revelation 13:1-4, 8; 18:23; Matthew 24:24; Mark 13:22; Isaiah 47:5, 12; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12).

Are All Messages from Angels to be Listened To?

What if a message appears to come from an angel in heaven (which is what was later claimed about a 1916 apparition in Fatima)?

The Prophet Jeremiah and the Apostle Paul wrote:

2 Thus saith the Lord: Learn not according to the ways of the Gentiles: and be not afraid of the signs of heaven, which the heathens fear (Jeremiah 10:2, DRB).

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach a gospel to you besides that which we have preached to you, let him be anathema. (Galatians 1:8, DRB)

Thus, even though some apparently other-worldly apparitions seemingly appeared multiple times to children in Fatima, if any part of the message contradicts the gospel (which part of it, and the messages of Akita, did as will be shown later), Christians are not to accept that part of the message, even though some who claim to believe in Jesus will accept it anyway (Galatians 1:7-9).

4. THE FIRST TWO SECRETS, FULFILLMENTS, AND SELECTED CONTROVERSIES

The first two “secrets” are revealed in this chapter.

Lúcia gave contradictory information about a “third secret” and a 1960 release date. Most of the pontiffs acted like they felt that Lúcia had some type of credibility problem.

Fatimist priests have denounced Pope Benedict XVI with so many negative expressions that it is shocking that they have not been defrocked.

Catholic writings teach that devotion to Mary was not part of the original apostolic faith. The first apparition that many believe was Mary appeared in the third century. Around 1140 A.D., the Catholic saint Bernard condemned the newly introduced teaching of the Immaculate Conception as a heretical and unfounded innovation.

There are more controversies associated with the first two secrets than most realize.

Some “secret” messages were given to the children on the June 13 and/or July 13, 1917 encounters by the apparition. And nearly a century later, many find them of interest.

It needs to be understood that the messages of the visions were not written down until a decade or so after they were allegedly given.¹⁵⁵ In late 1948, *Life Magazine* (along with a picture of an envelope) reported this about Lúcia:

She first wrote down the prophecies in 1927 after two of them had been fulfilled: her cousins' death and the end of the First World War. On advice of a priest she tore them up.¹⁵⁶

In a manuscript to Bishop Correia da Silva, completed on December 25, 1935, Lúcia wrote, "You would not find it strange that I should reserve for eternity certain secrets and other matters."¹⁵⁷ This was odd for her to write for many reasons including that she later previously said she revealed all the secrets, beginning with two of them publicly in 1942.¹⁵⁸

Here is what Lúcia mentions in her *Third Memoir*, which was published in October 1942:

Well, the secret is made up of three distinct parts, two of which I am now going to reveal.¹⁵⁹

The first secret was a vision supposedly of the torment of the wicked, apparently intended to correspond with the "lake of fire" that the Bible describes (Revelation 20:14, 15). Here is how Lúcia describes it in her *Third Memoir*:

The first part...Our Lady showed us a great sea of fire which seemed to be under the earth. Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form, like transparent burning embers, all blackened or burnished bronze, floating about in the conflagration, now raised into the air by the flames that issued from within themselves together with great clouds of smoke, now falling back on every side like sparks in a huge fire, without weight or equilibrium, and amid shrieks and groans of pain and despair, which horrified us and made us tremble with fear. The demons could

be distinguished by their terrifying and repulsive likeness to frightful and unknown animals, all black and transparent. This vision lasted but an instant. How can we ever be grateful enough to our kind heavenly Mother, who had already prepared us by promising, in the first Apparition, to take us to heaven? Otherwise, I think we would have died of fear and terror.¹⁶⁰

The Bible itself does not suggest that demons are black and transparent, yet it also does not say that they could not be. The fact that the torment was only seen for an instant could possibly be construed as consistent with other parts of the Bible. Of course, the apparition did not claim to be “our kind heavenly Mother” (those were Lúcia’s words decades later), and is not capable of taking them to heaven.

Apparition Made Blasphemous Claim Related to the First Secret

After seeing the vision of punishment, according to Lúcia, “Our Lady” said “poor sinners... To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart.”¹⁶¹

That should send shockwaves to all who profess Christ, whether Catholic or otherwise.

Catholics should be concerned, because according to the teaching of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, on “private revelations” it “is not their role to improve or complete Christ’s definitive Revelation,”¹⁶² yet that is precisely what the Lady of Fatima did by apparently stating that salvation from the lake of fire can come from “devotion to” her “Immaculate Heart.”

Decades ago, Archbishop Sheen wrote, “Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima is actually a petition for a Woman

to save man from nature made destructive through the rebellious intellect of man.”¹⁶³ Yet, the Bible says that only God can do that, and that He would do it through His Son (Acts 4:10-12). Nowhere does the Bible even hint that we should petition Mary.

What Lúcia said in an interview on November 17, 2001¹⁶⁴ is also a concern:

Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is the means of salvation God has bestowed to help the Church and the world through these difficult times.¹⁶⁵

God did not do that.

In Akita, Japan, on October 13, 1973, the Lady there similarly falsely stated, “I alone am able to save you from the calamities that approach.”¹⁶⁶

Catholics and non-Catholics should immediately realize that according to the Holy Bible it is only through Jesus and no other (including Mary) that any can be saved:

10 Be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of our Lord **Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom you crucified, whom God hath raised from the dead, even by him this man standeth here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was rejected by you the builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other. For **there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved.** (Acts 4:10-12 DRB)

There is no “salvation in any other” (Acts 4:12). Offering an alternative is a false gospel (cf. Galatians 1:8).

According to the Bible those who offer a false gospel should be “accursed” (Galatians 1:9, NKJV) or “anathema” (DRB).

Thus, from a biblical perspective, the first “secret” from “the Lady” and Lúcia’s public teachings about salvation contain major error. This perhaps is one of the most shocking things Catholics need to remember about Fatima (and Akita): parts of the messages are clearly contradictory to scripture, and hence did NOT come from the God of the Bible.

The Second Secret

The second secret included the Lady’s instructions on how to save souls from torment and convert the world to the Roman Catholic faith, also revealed by Lúcia in her *Third Memoir*:

We then looked up at Our Lady, who said to us so kindly and so sadly:

“You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to **establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart**. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end: but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the Pontificate of Pius XI. When you see a night illuminated by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that he is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father. To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart and the Communion of reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia

will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated. In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she shall be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world."¹⁶⁷

In her *Fourth Memoir* (written late 1941) she added:

In Portugal, the dogma of Faith will always be preserved; etc...Do not tell this to anybody. Francisco, yes, you may tell him.¹⁶⁸

Many believe that the second secret predicted the end of WWI and that there would be a WWII under the Pontificate of Pius XI. Pius XI's pontificate was from 6 February 1922 through 10 February 1939. When the secret was allegedly given, the current pope's name was Benedict XV—and since it was not Pius many believe that this is additional evidence that the second secret was an accurate prophecy. But the fact that this message was not written down until after Pius started his pontificate brings some question to it.

(Some believe that the "etc." and "this" added in the *Fourth Memoir* meant that there were unrevealed parts of this secret and that some of that is related to an unrevealed portion of the third secret. Priest Paul Kramer (a Fatimist researcher) wrote, "The 'this' that can be told to Francisco refers to the last thing in the vision. If it was only a vision, without an explanation, then Francisco didn't need to be told anything, because he had just seen it himself already. But if 'this' refers to additional words of the Virgin by way

of explanation of the vision, then Francisco would have to be told, because as we know, he could not hear Our Lady during the Fatima apparitions...the 'etc.' indicates the words, not yet written down."¹⁶⁹)

Would Mary Ask for a Public Repentance Secretly?

What should be one of the biggest controversies about Fatima, and one that should lay to rest any doubt that the Lady was not the Mary of the Bible, has to do with the second secret.

Notice one part:

If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end: but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the Pontificate of Pius XI.¹⁷⁰

Would God, through any of His representatives, give a message that He wants people to heed; only to keep it a secret until it is too late?

Of course not!

A Satanic apparition might, but there would be no way that Jesus' mother could possibly have given a message calling for the world to heed what she said while at the same time keeping the message secret until it is too late to respond to it.

If the Vatican truly believed Lúcia's were messages from God or Mary, why didn't the popes (and their bishops around the world) consecrate Russia after hearing of the messages?

Lúcia was very frustrated and later claimed (in 1946¹⁷¹) that on June 13, 1929¹⁷² (and it more likely was June 12, 1930 as that is what the note in her own handwriting stated¹⁷³) she had visions from the Lady and Jesus requiring that this be done then. Lúcia wrote:

Our Lady said to me:

“The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the Bishops of the world, to make consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means...”

Later, in an intimate communication, Our Lord complained to me saying:

“They did not wish to heed my request!...they will repent and do it, but it will be too late...The Holy Father will have much to suffer.”¹⁷⁴

Yet, none of the popes did this consecration. Oh, excuses for why the Russian consecration wasn't done have been given.¹⁷⁵ But anyone looking honestly at this must conclude that, with the possible exception of John Paul II, none of the past popes seriously believed that Mary or Jesus were actually giving the messages as the popes did not do what was requested (and allegedly John-Paul II was told not to do it to avoid offending the Russian Orthodox¹⁷⁶). Although some claim that a version of the consecration was done in 1984, this disregard by at least five popes since the 1929/1930 request shows that they must not have truly believed that Lúcia was telling them the words of Mary or Jesus that they needed to heed (the short skirt issue is something that the popes likely long knew about).

If the popes did not take the requests seriously, should anyone else? Some Catholics claim that World War II would have been prevented, and 55 million people spared from death then, if the consecration was properly performed by the pope and the bishops.¹⁷⁷ But it was not.

So were those popes all terribly wrong or were there reasons that they did not believe that the messages from Lúcia came from Saint Mary, the blessed mother of Jesus?

In her *Third Memoir*, written in the summer of 1941¹⁷⁸ and published in 1942, Lúcia claimed that in 1917 the Lady asked for the consecration of Russia.¹⁷⁹ Yet, in a hand written letter from her (a copy of which I viewed), the translation of it states:

The request about Russia — it appears that it was in June 1930, from Thursday to Friday, and that it took place from the 12th to the 13th, from 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. at night.¹⁸⁰

Thus, *it may be that parts of the secret were expanded after some of the “predicted” events had taken place.* This seems to be evidence of that idea as Pope Pius XI called for a day of prayer for Russia to change on March 19, 1930¹⁸¹ and Lúcia originally wrote that her vision happened in June 1930.

The Jesuit Priest Gonçalves, who was the first to report this vision, for some reason reported 1929 instead of 1930, with Thursday dates for both.¹⁸² Dr. Fernandes speculated that perhaps the priest did so to try to improve Lúcia’s credibility?¹⁸³ But it seems to have the opposite effect.

The Aurora Borealis

Now one part of the second message had to do with, “a night illuminated by an unknown light.”¹⁸⁴

Lúcia believed that an “extraordinary” multi-colored aurora borealis that occurred during the nights of January 25th and 26th 1938 was a sign given by God that WWII was imminent.¹⁸⁵ Reports claim the aurora put forth “an eerie blood red glow” and was seen across Europe.¹⁸⁶

Lúcia contacted her bishop who told her to report this to Pope Pius XI — yet, the pontiff did not seem to do anything

with it¹⁸⁷ (nor would he do the consecration for Russia, despite Lúcia's pleas¹⁸⁸). This is further evidence that the Vatican still did not really believe Lúcia over two decades after the appearances at Fatima. Nor would it even believe this "sign in the heavens."

Yet, many Fatima followers claim that World War II broke out while Pius XI was pontiff (he died on February 10, 1939) and accept this as proof that the messages were of God-approved origin.¹⁸⁹

Since the secret (including the part about the "unknown light") was not revealed publicly until 1942, there is a MAJOR problem here. Either the Vatican was not trustworthy itself to try to prevent the war that the Lady warned about and/or it simply did not believe Lúcia.

Lúcia Often Seemed to be an Issue

It has been suggested that Lúcia had so many credibility issues that the Vatican was unsure what to do. Some found contradictions and some found that she would not provide sufficient information to be trusted. Basically, it seems that since many people felt that there was value in pilgrimages to Fatima, that the Vatican decided to allow that something happened, yet without committing itself to the details.¹⁹⁰

Even Lúcia's confessor in 1926 did not accept that Jesus had made certain requests to her when she claimed He appeared to her at the time.¹⁹¹ He also said that there would have to be "related proofs so that it would be believed."¹⁹²

Apparently shortly thereafter, Lúcia claimed to have received a new vision, which she wrote down.¹⁹³ She sent this to her confessor Monsignor Periera Lopes, but he "did not dignify Lúcia with a response."¹⁹⁴

In the summer of 1926, when Priest José da Silva Aparício met Lúcia, she violated her promise to the Bishop of Liera about not revealing who she was and then

bragged about seeing the apparition.¹⁹⁵ Some called Lúcia the “star nun.”¹⁹⁶

Another one of her confessors, Jesuit Priest Jose Bernardo Gonçalves, also questioned the logic and theology of her messages in 1930.¹⁹⁷ The messages essentially indicated that positions which certain Catholic saints held were not merely differences of theological opinion, but were severely blasphemous (for details, please see chapter 7).

Furthermore according to Lúcia, apparently in the early 1940s, the Catholic Canon Dr. Galambra stated that Lúcia will “have to do the rounds in purgatory many a time for having kept silent about so many things.”¹⁹⁸

The shocking message of the second secret is that for it to have truly been from a representative of God, it would not have been kept secret until years after it was too late to heed the warnings. If Lúcia and/or the Vatican (after she sent the information to it) was a type of watchman for God, God would seem to have been highly displeased according to scripture (cf. Ezekiel 3:17-20), for not giving the warning until it was too late.

After Germany invaded Poland, Lúcia sent a third letter to Rome. It appears that in 1940 the second part of the message gained a certain amount of credibility.¹⁹⁹ But just because an apparition says something that comes to pass, this does not mean it is from God (cf. Deuteronomy 13:1-4).

In an interview with Priest Augustine Fuentes on December 26, 1957, (that was originally published with the imprimatur of the Bishop of Fatima²⁰⁰) Lúcia reportedly said:

Father, the Most Holy Virgin is very sad because no one has paid any attention to her message, neither the good nor the bad...But believe me, Father, God will chastise the world and this will be

in a terrible manner. The punishment from heaven is imminent.²⁰¹

Yet, that first statement is not true. Attention was paid, but apparently not the amount of attention that Lúcia and/or the apparition wanted. There is no way that Mary would have made the false statement that no one paid any attention because some people did.²⁰² So, if she said this or that God's chastisement of the world was truly imminent 54+ years ago, then Lúcia and her apparition have credibility issues with these statements. (Another time that Lúcia said something was *imminent* supposedly it happened within several months.²⁰³)

In that same 1957 interview, Lúcia also claimed:

Father, how much time is there before 1960 arrives? It will be very sad for everyone, not one person will rejoice at all if beforehand the world will not pray and do penance...This is the Third part of the Message that will remain secret until 1960...many nations will disappear from the face of the earth.²⁰⁴

But that simply was not true. The whole world did not pray and do penance back then, yet there were people who were not sad in 1960. The elimination of nations did not happen either (though Lúcia did not necessarily strictly state that would happen by 1960, she did imply it).

In 1959 there was also supposedly a credibility conflict that Lúcia had with a Priest Fuentes. Partially because of it, she could only meet with people starting in 1960 that were relatives or approved by the Vatican.²⁰⁵ It was later (1975) declared by Dr. Joaquin Alonso that Priest Fuentes accurately reported what she said in that 1957 interview.

Dr. Joaquin Alonso, who spent much time with her writings, wrote:

Lúcia may be deceived in the mystical interpretation of her experiences... At times, she herself is in doubt that God is talking to her...²⁰⁶

Furthermore, it appears that over time, certain parts of her description of what she saw in 1917 changed. For example, Lúcia originally claimed that the Lady carried a pointed medallion,²⁰⁷ yet in the 1930s this was changed to be “the Immaculate Heart of Mary,” which some believe was caused by pressure from various clergy and/or being part of a convent.²⁰⁸

Third Secret to Have Been Revealed in 1960?

Some have claimed that in the 21st century, Cardinal Bertone or Lúcia were not telling the truth on the intended release of the secret in 1960.²⁰⁹ Notice one such direct accusation from Catholic writer and attorney Christopher Ferrara:

Either Sister Lúcia...was a serial liar...or it is Bertone who has misled us.²¹⁰

Much of this has to do with 1960 as he also wrote:

In conversations with Sister Lucy in October 1946, Canon Barthas asked her “When will the Third Secret be *revealed to us?*”, and she replied: “In 1960.” When Canon Barthas asked her why 1960 and not sooner, she replied: “Because the Blessed Virgin wishes it so.” Sister Lucy told no less than Cardinal Ottaviani that 1960 was the year chosen by Our Lady because in that year the Secret “will seem clearer” (*mais claro*).²¹¹

For another example of why the “secret” would be revealed in 1960, on the outside of an envelope with what became the publicly revealed third secret, Lúcia wrote:

By order of Our Lady do not open it before 1960.²¹²

The late Priest Malachy Martin (former Jesuit and a professor of the Pontifical Biblical Institute) claimed:

The Secret was intended...to be revealed in 1960 by the explicit order of Heaven ... The Pope decided that it would be better if the world did not know it, contrary to the order of the Queen of Heaven...²¹³

Priest Paul Kramer reported:

Sister Lucy had made the Bishop of Leira-Fatima promise that the Secret would be read to the world at her death, but in no event later than 1960, ‘because the Blessed Virgin wishes it to be so.’²¹⁴

Canon Galambra, around 1946, reported:

When the bishop refused to open the *letter*, Lucy made him promise that it would definitely be opened and read to the world either at her death or in 1960, whichever came first.²¹⁵

Yet, this is not what Lúcia allegedly told Cardinal Anthony Padiyara of India on October 11, 1992:

The Third Secret is not intended to be revealed. It was only intended for the Pope and the Church hierarchy. Our Lady never said it was intended to be revealed to the public by 1960 at the latest. The Secret was for the Pope.²¹⁶

Additionally, Cardinal Bertone reported the following from one of his meetings with Lúcia:

“Why only after 1960? Was it Our Lady who fixed that date?”

She replied: “It was a decision that I took on my own initiative...Our Lady didn’t tell me anything on that score.”²¹⁷

In a later discussion of the above, Cardinal Bertone stated:

*It was a fictitious date and Lúcia confessed it with disarming candor.*²¹⁸

In Lúcia’s book (which others edited), her own statement was, “It was not Our Lady. I fixed the date because I had an intuition that before 1960 it would not be understood. Now it can be better understood. I wrote down what I saw; however it was not for me to interpret it, but for the Pope.”²¹⁹

Supporters of Lúcia, however, have often indicated that high level Vatican officials and not Lúcia were the ones with credibility issues on these particular points.²²⁰ Various ones have also suggested that Lúcia may have changed her positions on various secrets because of pressure from some within the Catholic clergy.²²¹

The Vatican, like me, believed that something was seen, but that the messages given should not be trusted.²²² This may also be part of why “surveys show that only 3 percent of all Catholics really know the Fatima message.”²²³ (I would add that even amongst those who think that they know it, many do not realize that the messages contain contradictions to sacred scripture.)

Lúcia Then Further Silenced

Pope John XXIII had so many concerns about Lúcia that allegedly he wanted her “silenced.”²²⁴ For the 45 years from 1960 to her death, Lúcia was cloistered away from the outside “in a condition that is not imposed on anyone in the civilized world, not even the most dangerous criminals”²²⁵ (she had often been cloistered away prior to then as well).

According to Antonio Socci, part of the reason for the cloistering was that some within the Vatican Curia felt that she was “obsessed with being the center of attention” as well because of other complaints about her.²²⁶ It may also be that if Lúcia had more outside access then more credibility problems likely would have become apparent to more outsiders.

It has been reported that the official Vatican archives on Fatima contains a 24 volume set with 5,396 documents covering 1917 to November 12, 1974²²⁷ which have “never seen the light of day” (though some parts have in a highly edited form²²⁸) that was put together by Priest Alonso from 1965 to 1976.²²⁹ Some suspect that this would give insight to the ‘untold’ secret,²³⁰ but I suspect while that may be so, it also might reveal more credibility problems with Lúcia, and hence make it clearer that she was not God’s messenger.

Some have suggested that if Lúcia had more uncontrolled access that this would disprove the currently official Vatican spin on the third secret as well as reveal how highly some associated with the Vatican edited her book/writings.²³¹ While that may be, the reality is that despite the cloistering, there are many contradictions and changes in Lúcia’s statements that have been documented that many have tended to overlook.

For example, Lúcia had papers released in a small book with an imprimatur, dated February 13, 2006, by retired Bishop Serafim de Sousa Ferreira e Silva of Leiria-Fatima.²³² This Italian book went into some detail concerning the secrets, World War II, and Judaism. *Zenit* (a pro-Vatican news source) reported that it stated Lúcia wrote:

“...the outbreak of an atheist war against the faith, against God and against the People of God. A war that sought to exterminate Judaism from which Jesus Christ, the Virgin and the Apostles came, who transmitted to us the Word of God and the gift of faith, hope and charity, a people chosen by God, chosen from the beginning: ‘salvation comes from the Jews.’”

This was different than anything else she had ever released according to *The Fatima Crusader*:

This preoccupation with Jews and today’s Jewish religion is foreign to anything we find in Sister Lucy’s previous writings. It is the rhetoric of post-conciliar ecumenism, not that of *Fatima in Lúcia’s Own Words*. It suggests that another hand — other than Sister Lucy’s — scribed this part of the text.²³³

Notice that instead of noticing that Lúcia again added to the “secret” she supposedly received in 1917, *The Fatima Crusader* suggests that some apparently associated with the Vatican made this up and published it. Lúcia long had a credibility issue and many of her supporters seem to have not really noticed it.

Some have referred to Lúcia’s changes in the message over time as “**The Multiplication of the Secret**” ... “In 1917 it was ‘little words’ ... In 1924, it was still ‘little words’ ... In

1927, it was transformed into two secrets...In 1942, there were three parts – a vision of images, plus words...By 2000, the third part of the secret was the description of an image.”²³⁴

Many Catholic Leaders Had Doubts

Oddly, it has been claimed, “The Catholic Church has endorsed the Fatima message since 1930”²³⁵ and “All of the Popes since the Fatima Miracle have recognized that the Message of Fatima is authentic.”²³⁶ Yet, that was not exactly the position of either the Vatican nor its popes.

Notice the following account:

On September 22, 1986...the Abbé Laurentin was received in Rome by John Paul II in a private audience which lasted an hour. He would soon be reporting in his writings that «dialogue has continued to be difficult between Lucy and the last six popes. The seer seems to think that the consecration has “still not been done” as the Virgin would like. » And he went on to admit that between her and John Paul II «there remains some tension. »²³⁷

While some point out that Pope John-Paul II acted like he believed Lúcia, this was not the case with many popes. In 1967, Pope Paul VI was clearly annoyed with, and refused to speak with Lúcia.²³⁸

Lúcia herself doubted that Pope Pius XI would believe her in 1936.²³⁹ Pius XI also seemed to ignore many requests from her.²⁴⁰

Pope Pius XII did not read the secret as he did not want to be influenced by it.²⁴¹

Pope John XXIII apparently did not believe Lúcia's visions were from "the Madonna."²⁴² In 1960, Pope John XXIII simply did not believe the apparitions were messages from Mary or Heaven. He also reportedly felt that they were not "entirely supernatural," though he officially declared "I do not give any judgment."²⁴³ According to Priest Martin, John XXIII was "hostile" to "the three prophets of Fatima."²⁴⁴

Priest Kramer's book states:

To both insiders and outsiders, the Vatican's treatment of this seems strangely inconsistent... any reasonable person might ask why the Church persists in ignoring the message, and risking such catastrophic consequences...the Fatima message has been and still is "politically incorrect" in the context of current Vatican policy.²⁴⁵

It may be that the Vatican acts as it does towards Fatima is because many Catholics who have looked into this simply do not believe that the shepherds were credible, yet since many pious Catholics want to accept Fatima, the Vatican apparently does not want to highly offend them.

In 2000, the evangelical publication calling itself *Christianity Today* (CT) published, "Richard McBrien, professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame and general editor of *The Encyclopedia of Catholicism*, tells CT that he believes in neither Marian apparitions nor the Pope's recent interpretation."²⁴⁶ Dr. Richard McBrien is also a Catholic priest.

Cardinal Josef Ratzinger was once Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, formerly the "Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office," the historical Inquisition. Basically under the pope he was in charge of

saying what was Catholic doctrine and what wasn't (unless a Council was called). In that position he essentially wrote that no Catholic needed to believe anything about Fatima.²⁴⁷

Because of that writing, Priest Kramer and his associates wrote:

Cardinal Ratzinger has made it perfectly clear... that he holds...that the prophetic elements of the Message...are little more than fabrications... and... that the Third Secret itself may be largely a concoction:²⁴⁸

Biblical and Traditional Controversies Related to the Immaculate Heart Devotion

As mentioned before, according to Lúcia, the apparition asked that a devotion to its "Immaculate Heart" *be established*.²⁴⁹ Yet, notice *The Catholic Encyclopedia* of 1912 reported it was established no later than 1799, with changes in 1805 and 1830.²⁵⁰

If this Fatima apparition was Mary of the Bible, she would have realized that a group had already claimed to have established devotion to the claimed "Immaculate Heart of Mary" over sixty-years previously.

Additionally, here is another Catholic-bishop approved reference related to that devotion:

DAUGHTERS OF THE MOST HOLY AND
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Introduced into the United States, 1871

This congregation was founded in 1848 at Olot, Gerona, Spain, by Canon Joaquin Masmitjay de Puig. Through the intermediation of the Right Rev. Thaddeus Amat, Bishop of Monterey, a colony of these Sisters, under Mother Raimunda Cremadell, was brought to Gilroy, Cal., in August, 1871.²⁵¹

In 1850 it was published that there were “12,000 *brotherhoods* founded in the name of this devotion.”²⁵² I was shocked to see that so many groups had been established for this devotion and further shocked that the Lady at Fatima asked for something to be established that clearly had already been done. If only the Lady would have said something like “re-establish/increase devotion” that would have made much more logical sense.

Apparently, the apparition was unaware of their previous existence or wanted to push devotion further away from God instead. I declare it was the latter as it is not biblical.

The Bible is clear that it is the name of Jesus, and no one else (and this includes Mary) that is needed for salvation.

21 And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved.**

22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you...
(Acts 2:21-22, DRB)

10 Be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of our Lord **Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God hath raised from the dead, even by him this man standeth here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was rejected by you the builders,

which is become the head of the corner. 12 **Neither is there salvation in any other. For there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved.** (Acts 4:10-12 DRB)

There is no salvation apart from Christ. And Mary is simply not one of the biblically-required elements in salvation. One can search the entire New Testament without finding one verse that suggests that Mary's post-mortual role in salvation is necessary or that any should establish "devotion to her Immaculate Heart." Yes, Mary was Jesus' physical mother, but no, the Bible never implies that any one should call on her name or be devoted to her heart to be saved or for others to be saved.

It should also be noted that Catholics themselves do not seem to have records of having been devoted to the "immaculate heart of Mary" prior to the 11th or 12th century according to *The Catholic Encyclopedia*.²⁵³

Even if earlier "records" are found (or forged) later, there is no way that it can be argued that devotion to the "Immaculate Heart" of Mary was an apostolic tradition that was retained by the Vatican. It was not the practice of the apostles nor their immediate followers.

Furthermore, while some consider their understanding of this matter a matter of Catholic dogma, all would do well to realize what then-Cardinal Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) wrote specifically about what he claims the Immaculate Heart means:

An attempt to interpret the "secret" of Fatima...

The words of the First Letter of Peter come to mind: "As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls" (1:9). To reach this goal,

the way indicated — surprisingly for people from the Anglo-Saxon and German cultural world — is devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary... According to Matthew 5:8, the “immaculate heart” is a heart which, with God’s grace, has come to perfect interior unity and therefore “sees God”. To be “devoted” to the Immaculate Heart of Mary means therefore to embrace this attitude of heart, which makes the *fiat* — “your will be done” — the defining center of one’s whole life. It might be objected that we should not place a human being between ourselves and Christ. But then we remember that Paul did not hesitate to say to his communities: “imitate me” (1 Cor 4:16; Phil 3:17; 1 Th 1:6; 2 Th 3:7, 9).²⁵⁴

So, Cardinal Ratzinger could be perceived to be teaching:

- 1) Mary is NOT to come between God and man,
- 2) true believers, and not just Mary, in his view, can have an ‘immaculate heart’ in the sense it is taught in sacred scripture, and
- 3) that the Fatima message related to the “devotion of the Immaculate Heart of Mary” should be understood to mean primarily to imitate Mary as she followed Christ (or to quote Saint Paul, “I beseech you, be ye followers of me, as I also am of Christ,” 1 Corinthians 4:16, DRB).

Some Fatimists have essentially condemned Joseph Ratzinger for that writing,²⁵⁵ while they have interpreted it to mean:

...Cardinal Ratzinger dared to say that devotion to the one and only Immaculate Heart of Mary means nothing more than following Mary's example...²⁵⁶

Yet, not only is that more correct than other Marian understandings that many Catholics have, some of Cardinal Ratzinger's last statements are also fairly consistent with the following writing by Priest Paul Kramer and his associates:

Further...there cannot be any "new understanding" ... it is a matter of Catholic Faith that we believe that *no new doctrine has been revealed by God since the death of the last Apostle, Saint John* and that *no new understanding of doctrine* has arisen because of Vatican II or otherwise.²⁵⁷

Those statements related to Saint John are consistent with Vatican I according to Priest Kramer.²⁵⁸ The reality is that Cardinal Ratzinger's writing, implying that an immaculate heart is one that comes into unity (though imperfect in this life) with God, is certainly more consistent with the writings and traditions that were extant at the death of the Apostle John than any more recent Marian developments (like those that occurred in post-second century).

Thus, since there is no indication that there was a cult to the "Immaculate Heart of Mary" at the time of the Apostle John, no one should accept the Fatima messages (similar requests by other apparitions) as consistent with the true and original Christian faith.

Cardinal Ratzinger Condemned by Certain Fatimists

Because of his writings on Fatima and ecumenical matters, in 2002 certain Fatimist priests wrote that Pope Benedict, when he was Cardinal Ratzinger had, "sheer

audacity," writings "that should disturb any Catholic," "blatantly falsified" "Our Lady's prophecy" through "tampering," caused "butchery of the message of Fatima," "taken the lead in attempting nothing less than the murder of the Message of Fatima," "conspired, and then acted publicly, to impose upon the Church a version of the Fatima Message that bears no resemblance to the Catholic prophecy," become one of "many collaborators" in "auto-demolition of the Church," committed a "crime" through his explanation of Fatima, tried to "bury the Fatima Message," contributed to a "jig-saw of truths, half-truths, and lies," presented something "wholly lacking in credibility," wrote at least one "lie," written another statement that "borders on heresy and blasphemy," become "at least a material heretic," made "citations to Scripture which... obscure the simplicity of God's truth," made "a patently fraudulent interpretation," made a "bogus—bordering on blasphemous—interpretation," made "not only lies but clumsy lies," been "deceptive," emanated "lies," "blatantly undermined" at least one Catholic "dogma" in a manner that was "outrageous," committed "fraudulent witness tampering," "deliberately tampered with the words of the Mother of God," "deliberately ignored the Virgin's prophecy," promoted "exegetical frauds," committed "grotesque and blasphemous interpretation" which "debases the Mother of God," flatly contradicted his own testimony in 1984," caused "a shameless deconstruction of the Message of Fatima," "produced only confusion," "caused untold damage to the Church," changed "his prior testimony," and produced commentary that "scandalizes the faithful."²⁵⁹ Yet in 2005, Cardinal Ratzinger was made pope.

Concerning Cardinal Ratzinger's use of quotation marks in his *Theological Commentary*, notice how certain

Fatimists have interpreted what Cardinal Ratzinger was doing:

It is also of theological importance to see quotation marks for both the “secret” and “Our Lady”...to place quotation marks around Our Lady regarding an apparition that has been approved...conveys a message: namely the possibility that it was not Our Lady after all.²⁶⁰

But, of course, the evidence actually does demonstrate that Mary did not appear in Fatima.

Devotion to Mary Was Not Part of the Apostolic Faith

“Traditional” Catholics would *also* do well to consider that the type of veneration of Mary that many Catholics now participate in is absent from the Holy Bible, it is also not found in the earliest traditions of the church either. *The Catholic Encyclopedia* itself admits:

Devotion to Our Blessed Lady...is not contained; at least explicitly in the earlier forms of the Apostles’ Creed...we do not meet with any clear traces of the cultus of the Blessed Virgin in the first Christian centuries.²⁶¹

The reason that there are no clear traces of the “cultus” associated with Mary is because it was not an apostolic tradition nor from the Bible.

Notice what Saint Jude urged Christians:

3...I was under a necessity to write unto you: to beseech you to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. (Jude 3, DRB)

Marian dogmas (other than the virgin *birth*) and Marian devotion were absolutely not part of the original apostolic faith that the saints were given. The true Christian faith was not to be changed by heresies often called innovations.

Catherine Lawless a lecturer in history at the University of Limerick noted:

Mary herself is mentioned very little in the Bible...
The huge Marian cult that has evolved over
centuries has **very few scriptural sources**.²⁶²

Catherine Lawless is being overly kind there. There are no verses in the Bible that hint that the type of Marian devotion that many practice is scriptural. Being called “blessed” in the Bible is not unique to Mary (e.g. Matthew 5:3-11; James 5:11), yet the venerating Marian cultus that has developed (supposedly related to her) vastly exceeds any that is associated with other biblically “blessed” figures. And while people did give Jesus’ family members respect when they were on the earth, veneration was not done. Not even the Apostle Peter would allow a man to bow down before him (Acts 4:25-26), nor would the Mary of the Bible. It is Jesus that people are to bow before (Philippians 2:20).

While some have claimed that since some second and third century writers mentioned Mary in their writings, that this is evidence of Marian devotion back then.²⁶³ Yet others, like the Apostle John for example,²⁶⁴ are also mentioned positively in writings of the early centuries. Being positively mentioned in early writings is not proof of apostolic Marian devotion.

Earlier Marian Apparitions

It needs to be clearly understood that according to the Marian Research Institute (a group affiliated with the University of Dayton and which also is approved

Congregation for Catholic Education to provide pontifical doctoral and licentiate degrees in theology with specialization in Marian studies²⁶⁵):

There is no recorded literature about apparitions for the early centuries of the Church.²⁶⁶

Yet, the same source claims that there were 2,160 Marian apparitions between the third/fourth and seventeenth centuries.²⁶⁷ And there have been thousands more claimed since. Many claimed apparitions have been dismissed as not being valid by Rome and its local bishops and even fewer accepted as worthy of belief.

In the 19th century, there was a female apparition in France, known as the Lady of Lourdes. One of the statements she reportedly stated in 1858 was, "I am the Immaculate Conception!"²⁶⁸

Now this is an unusual and biblically contradictory idea as the Bible teaches that all have sinned (Roman 3:23) except Jesus (Hebrews 4:15), as He is the only one who had a biblically immaculate conception, but not the Marian kind.

For non-Catholics, let me explain that what became an extra-biblical Catholic doctrine was that Mary was conceived unlike all other humans and free of what many refer to as "original sin." Specifically this "dogma" has been explained in Dr. Ludwig Ott's 20th century book *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma* as:

"Mary's freedom of original sin was an unmerited gift of God, and an exception from the law that was vouchsafed to her only."²⁶⁹

His book also teaches:

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary is not explicitly revealed in scripture... Neither the Greek nor the Latin Fathers explicitly (explicite) teach the Immaculate Conception of Mary.²⁷⁰

So where did it come from?

Let's have a look at some comparative religion. Before the birth of Christ, the Iranian goddess Aredvi Sura Anāhitā, known as the Persian Diana,²⁷¹ was called "the virgin," "the immaculate."²⁷² Kore-Persephoneia was also the "immaculate Maiden" and "Virgin of the World" who gave birth to a son for Zeus, and she is believed to be same goddess Diana.²⁷³ Hence, it appears that at least *some* of the idea was part of paganism associated with "Diana" goddess worship.

Jumping forward to the 12th century, a British monk Eadmer began to promote the idea of an Immaculate Conception of Mary. When he did so, "St. Bernard of Clairvaux... (about 1140), warned the faithful that this was an unfounded innovation..."²⁷⁴ So was the Catholic saint Bernard wrong in condemning Monk Eadmer's heresy here? Of course not! Others, at least as late as the 17th century supported Bernard's position on this.²⁷⁵

Yet, after claiming to see an apparition in Rue du Bac, Paris in 1830, the Catholic saint Catherine Labouré claimed Mary "was conceived without sin."²⁷⁶ The extra-biblical teaching of the so-called "Immaculate Conception" did not become a type of Catholic dogma until December 8, 1854.²⁷⁷ It, thus, was not part of early apostolic tradition.

Gregory Thaumaturgus

The first person who apparently claimed to see an apparition of Mary was "Gregory the Wonder Worker,"

also known as Gregory Thaumaturgus²⁷⁸ around 238.²⁷⁹ (Some have erroneously suggested St. James was first in 40 A.D.,²⁸⁰ but this is not mentioned in the New Testament nor properly accepted as anything but a late legend.²⁸¹) Gregory claimed to gain truth from two of the dead, the Apostle John and Mary, Jesus' mother.²⁸²

Gregory was a factor in the Marian cults that began to rise up around that time. His writings teach praise and devotion to the "Holy Virgin." He blasphemously taught that Mary "blotted out" Eve's "transgressions."²⁸³

Allegedly "the demons were subject to him...he could cast his cloak over a man, and cause his death...he could bring the presiding demons back to their shrine."²⁸⁴ If this is true, then the fact that this Gregory caused death (apparently through some spell or charm) should give all a pause to consider that it was not Mary of the Bible that he saw. In the Bible, when a prophet of God threw his mantle/cloak on someone, it was to make that person a prophet, not kill him (1 Kings 19:16,19).

Notice that the Bible seems to condemn such a person like Gregory (NKJV has been abbreviated more than the DRB below):

10 Neither let there be found among you any one that...consulteth soothsayers, or observeth dreams and omens, neither let there be any wizard, **11** Nor charmer, nor any one that consulteth pythonic spirits, or fortune tellers, or that **seeketh the truth from the dead.** **12** For the Lord abhorreth all these things, and for these abominations he will destroy them at thy coming (Deuteronomy 18:10-12, DRB).

10 There shall not be found among you anyone... who practices witchcraft...**11** or one who conjures spells...or one who calls up the dead. **12** For all

who do these things are an abomination to the Lord... (Deuteronomy 18:10-12, NKJV)

Did not Gregory the Wonder Worker seek to gain truth from the dead in violation of scripture?

Furthermore, according to articles in *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, it seems that once certain other non-biblical Marian doctrines were starting to become prevalent in the third and fourth centuries (perhaps partially because of Gregory²⁸⁵), there were Christians that rose up to oppose them.²⁸⁶ They had valid reasons to claim that various Marian positions were contrary to sacred scripture and the early traditions of the church.

It should be noted that many recognized Catholic saints took positions on Mary that are contrary to several that those who venerate Mary hold today (see also chapter 7 for details).²⁸⁷

Catholics who believe that they should keep to the original faith of the apostles (cf. Jude 3) should not accept apparitions that contradict scripture to be from God.

5. THE PUBLICLY REVEALED THIRD SECRET

The “third secret” has gotten a lot of coverage and it is revealed in its official entirety in this chapter. Some of Cardinal Ratzinger’s (now Pope Benedict XVI) commentary on it is also in this chapter.

Quoting Lúcia, Cardinal Bertone claims that what was released is the entire “third secret” and nothing else remains. Many authors believe that there is more to the “third secret.”

The “third” secret of Fatima has gotten the most attention in recent years. The assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in 1981 was one of several events that helped popularize it.

There have also been various accounts of what that secret may be.

Here, however, it is the third secret that the Vatican revealed on June 26, 2000²⁸⁸ and later was confirmed by Lúcia Santos:

“J.M.J.

The third part of the secret revealed at the Cova da Iria-Fatima, on 13 July 1917.

I write in obedience to you, my God, who commands me to do so through his Excellency the Bishop of Leiria and through your Most Holy Mother and mine.

After the two parts which I have already explained, at the left of Our Lady and a little

above, we saw an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire; but they died out in contact with the splendour that Our Lady radiated towards him from her right hand: pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: 'Penance, Penance, Penance!' And we saw in an immense light that is God: 'something similar to how people appear in a mirror when they pass in front of it' a Bishop dressed in White 'we had the impression that it was the Holy Father'. Other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious going up a steep mountain, at the top of which there was a big Cross of rough-hewn trunks as of a cork-tree with the bark; before reaching there the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins and half trembling with halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he prayed for the souls of the corpses he met on his way; having reached the top of the mountain, on his knees at the foot of the big Cross he was killed by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows at him, and in the same way there died one after another the other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious, and various lay people of different ranks and positions. Beneath the two arms of the Cross there were two Angels each with a crystal aspersorium in his hand, in which they gathered up the blood of the Martyrs and with it sprinkled the souls that were making their way to God.

Tuy-3-1-1944."²⁸⁹

The above was translated by the Vatican from the original Portuguese letter, which is also shown on the Vatican's official website,²⁹⁰ as well as in Lúcia's book of her memoirs.²⁹¹ (J.M.J. is considered to be a reference to "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph."²⁹²)

Related to the third secret, Antonio Socci wrote:

The use of the word "bishop", but "a bishop *in white*" leads one to think that this could truly involve [a bishop who is] an illegitimate pope, an antipope, a usurper.²⁹³

Oddly, Cardinal Bertone wrote:

The decision of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to make public the third part of the "secret" of Fatima brings to an end a period of history marked by tragic human lust for power and evil, yet pervaded by the merciful love of God and the watchful care of the Mother of Jesus and of the Church.²⁹⁴

This is odd as humans still are in a period marked by lust for power and evil. This did not end in the year 2000.

Bishop Ratzinger's Comments

Although they are a bit lengthy to include in total in this book, it makes sense to quote from some of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger's *Theological Commentary* about the third secret.

Before showing some of them, notice what the *Los Angeles Times* had concerning Cardinal Ratzinger's commentary, followed by a view of some priests:

The Vatican's top theologian gently debunks a nun's account of her 1917 vision that fueled decades of speculation...Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger

said that Lúcia, now a 93-year-old cloistered Carmelite nun, might have conjured her vision from devotional books.²⁹⁵

Sister Lucy is finally discredited as a seer when Cardinal Ratzinger says that the vision incorporates images which “she may have seen in devotional books” ...Cardinal Ratzinger has made it perfectly clear...that the prophetic elements of the Message...are little more than fabrications by a simple and well-intentioned , but seriously misguided person.²⁹⁶

Here is some of Cardinal Ratzinger's June 26, 2000 commentary:

A careful reading of the text of the so-called third “secret” of Fatima, **published here in its entirety long after the fact...**will probably prove disappointing or surprising after all the speculation it has stirred. No great mystery is revealed; nor is the future unveiled. We see the Church of the martyrs of the century which has just passed represented in a scene described in a language which is symbolic and not easy to decipher. Is this what the Mother of the Lord wished to communicate to Christianity and to humanity at a time of great difficulty and distress? Is it of any help to us at the beginning of the new millennium? Or **are these only projections of the inner world of children**, brought up in a climate of profound piety but shaken at the same time by the tempests which threatened their own time? How should we understand the vision? What are we to make of it?

Private revelation...Cardinal Prospero Lambertini, the future Pope Benedict XIV, says in his classic treatise...: "An ascent of Catholic faith is not due to revelations approved in this way; it is not even possible. These revelations seek rather an ascent of human faith in keeping with the requirements of prudence, which puts them before us as probable and credible to piety"...

The first and second parts of the "secret" of Fatima have already been so amply discussed in the relative literature that there is no need to deal with them again here...

Thus we come finally to the third part of the "secret" of Fatima which for the first time is being published in its entirety...

Let us now examine more closely the single images. The angel with the flaming sword ... recalls similar images in the Book of Revelation. This represents the threat of judgment {sic} which looms over the world. Today, the prospect that the world might be reduced to ashes by a sea of fire no longer seems pure fantasy. Man, himself, with his inventions, has forged the flaming sword. The vision, then, shows the power which stands opposed to the force of destruction ...The place of the action is described in three symbols: a steep mountain, a great city reduced to ruins and finally a large rough-hewn cross. The mountain and city symbolize the arena of human history: history as an arduous ascent to the summit, history as the arena of human creativity and social harmony, but at the same time a place of destruction, where man

actually destroys the fruits of his own work. The city can be the place of communion and progress, but also of danger and the most extreme menace. On the mountain stands the cross – the goal and guide of history. The cross transforms destruction into salvation; it stands as a sign of history's misery but also as a promise for history.

At this point human persons appear: the Bishop dressed in white ("we had the impression that it was the Holy Father"), other Bishops, priests, men and women Religious, and men and women of different ranks and social positions. The Pope seems to precede the others, trembling and suffering because of all the horrors around him. Not only do the houses of the city lie half in ruins, but he makes his way among the corpses of the dead... **The concluding part of the "secret" uses images which Lúcia may have seen in devotional books...**

Finally, I would like to mention another key expression of the "secret" which has become justly famous: "my Immaculate Heart will triumph". What does this mean? The Heart open to God, purified by contemplation of God, is stronger than guns and weapons of every kind.²⁹⁷

Or in other words, the third secret is disaster is coming to the world if it does not turn to God, problems are expected to hit the Church of Rome, ultimately God will win, Lúcia and the other children may have made some of this up, and no one needs to believe in Fatima. This seems to be a summary of what Bishop Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) was trying to say.

Cardinal Bertone on 'Parts' of the Third Secret

Concerning whether other parts of the third secret exist, Vatican Secretary of State Bertone, in 2008, published:

There is no "first document" ...we have the word, better, the official confirmation, of Sister Lúcia...

"Yes, this is the Third Secret and I never wrote any other."

...The...prophecy is no longer open to the future, but refers to something in the past.²⁹⁸

So, Cardinal Bertone's position seemed to be that Lúcia confirmed that the letter represents the entire third secret, there is nothing more to it, and it has been fulfilled.

Yet, many authors who have looked into this matter have concluded otherwise (and even Cardinal Bertone changed his statement in 2011).

6. VERSIONS OF SECRETS FROM JACINTA AND CLERICS—THE FOURTH SECRET?

Because of contradictory information purportedly from Lúcia and Vatican sources, many believe that there is more to the “third secret” than has been publicly revealed. Some have claimed to have seen some or all of what has been called the “fourth secret” and believe it warns of doom as well as compromise coming to the Church of Rome.

At least one pontiff (Paul VI) and priest (Gabriele Amorth) have claimed that the smoke of Satan has entered the Vatican.

Others have indicated that the pedophilia scandal affecting the Church of Rome could be part of the third secret. There also seems to be concerns about the impact of Freemasonry on Catholics.

Some priests indicate that the emerging European Union may support ecumenical compromise and this is a major threat that Fatima has foretold. Some suggest that the destruction of the USA and Canada could be caused by this emerging European empire of the north.

Is there more to the third secret? Is there a fourth secret?

While Lúcia reportedly claimed that she had revealed all that she knew (which is in violation of her statements that she never would reveal the secrets) and Cardinal Bertone has repeatedly claimed that there is nothing else remaining of any secret of Fatima, others disagree.

It has been claimed from Catholic sources:

Sr. Lúcia had always maintained that the Secret of Fatima has three parts. But does the Third part have two parts? The evidence that it does began as early as 1952, when Pope Pius XII sent an Austrian Jesuit, Fr. Joseph Schweigl, to question Sr. Lúcia in her convent at Coimbra. After the interview, which took place on September 2, Fr. Schweigl stated: **“I may not reveal anything with regard to the Third Secret, but I am able to say that it has two parts: One part concerns the Pope. The other part is the logical continuation – though I may not say anything – of the words: ‘In Portugal, the dogma of the Faith will always be preserved etc.’”**

Indeed, that the Third Secret contained the *words of Our Lady*, had already been revealed by Fatima expert Canon Casimir Barthas, after his interview with Sr. Lúcia concerning the Third Secret on October 17-18, 1946. Barthas had stated: **“The text of the words of Our Lady was written by Sister Lúcia and enclosed in a sealed envelope.”** But the Vatican’s version of the Third Secret contained *no words of Our Lady!*²⁹⁹

“Now of course, the issue has never been whether there is ‘another Third Secret,’ but whether the one and only Third Secret had been revealed in its entirety, or whether there is also a text containing explanatory words of the Virgin...”³⁰⁰

The fact that “words” are supposed to be part of the third secret has suggested to various Fatimists that there is a missing, non-publicly revealed, part.³⁰¹

The term “etc.” is what comes after the word “preserved” in the Portugal statement.³⁰² Certain Fatimists believe that this is part of how Lúcia believes she revealed enough of the third secret in her writings and why there is more to the third secret.³⁰³ Others believe, that also in an indirect manner, even Pope John Paul II revealed that there was more to the third secret in a speech he gave at the Fatima sanctuary in 1982.³⁰⁴

Here is what Lúcia wrote in a letter dated May 12, 1982, according to the Vatican:

The third part of the secret refers to Our Lady’s words: ‘If not [Russia] will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated’ (13-VII-1917).

The third part of the secret is a symbolic revelation, referring to this part of the Message, conditioned by whether we accept or not what the Message itself asks of us: ‘If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, etc.’

Since we did not heed this appeal of the Message, we see that it has been fulfilled; Russia has invaded the world with her errors.³⁰⁵

Since the publicly revealed *third* secret says nothing about Russia, it would seem that Lúcia misunderstood the secret, there is a ‘missing piece’ of the third secret, and/or that the second and third secrets are related.

Perhaps it should be noted that some have stated that in the May 12, 1982 letter above, one particular Portuguese phrase, *que tanto anasiais por conhecer*, was dropped from the English and Italian translations furnished by the Vatican and certain of its supporters.³⁰⁶ The second phrase in English with the missing piece, according to Antonio Socci's book, should have been "The third part of the secret, *that you are so anxious to know*, is a symbolic revelation..."³⁰⁷ A copy of the original letter in Portuguese in Lúcia's own book confirms that the expression about being anxious should have been translated.³⁰⁸ So, a symbolic representation would eliminate that there needed to be something with the Lady's words.

Yet, some have claimed that differing Vatican accounts help prove that there was another envelope that contained another part of the third secret, sometimes called the fourth secret.³⁰⁹ Basically, while the revealed "third secret" was a description of what the three children claimed to see in Fatima, because various accounts (mainly from Lúcia) also said that the third secret contained the apparition's "words," many have concluded that there must be an unrevealed piece (such as one in Lúcia's old notebooks that may have ended up in another envelope).

Notice there are related reports supportive of the idea there were two envelopes:

Lúcia had placed the Secret in a sealed envelope which was, in turn, placed inside one of the notebooks...Lúcia wrote to Bishop da Silva on January 9, 1944: "I have written what you asked me; God willed to try me a little, but finally, this was indeed His will: it [the Secret] is sealed in an envelope *and it is in the notebooks...*" "In his 'confidential note,' which bears a lot of seals, it is

certified that Pope Paul VI read the secret on the afternoon of Thursday, June 27, 1963; while the official Vatican document affirms: 'Paul VI read the contents with the Substitute Secretary of State, His Excellency Monsignor Angelo Dell'Aqua, on March 27, 1965, and sent the envelope back to the archives of the Holy Office with the decision to not publish the text.'³¹⁰

Monsignor Capovilla: 'But I am right; perhaps the Bertone envelope is not the same as the Capovilla envelope...' Immediately I interrupted him: 'Therefore, both dates are correct because there are two texts of the Third Secret?' Here there was a brief silent pause. Then Monsignor Capovilla responded: 'Precisely so!'³¹¹

...John XXIII...decided...restoring to the Holy Office the text of the vision, but retaining the other part in the papal apartment.³¹²

Canon Casimir Barthas (a renowned Fatima expert) who interrogated Sister Lúcia concerning the Third Secret on October 17-18, 1946..reported: "The text of *the words of Our Lady* was written by Sister Lúcia and enclosed in a sealed envelope." Further, no less than Cardinal Ottaviani, then Secretary of the Holy Office, interrogated Lúcia in 1955 concerning the Secret, later revealing that "She wrote on a *sheet* of paper [*folha* in Portuguese] *what Our Lady told her* to tell the Holy Father." Ottaviani read the Secret himself and can hardly have been mistaken in his reference to what Our Lady *told* Lúcia to *tell* the Holy Father. So, it was clear very early on that the Third Secret of Fatima

has two parts, one of which presents the *spoken words* of the Virgin Mary embraced within Sister Lúcia's "etc." ³¹³

It was thus immediately apparent that the Secret involved two documents: one sealed in the envelope, and the other in Lucy's notebook. ³¹⁴

Allegedly, Pope Pius VI kept the non-disclosed letter in a little wooden safe in his own room. ³¹⁵ Also, there are records that the third secret arrived on April 4, 1957 and April 16, 1957, which led some to believe that this helps prove that there were two envelopes. ³¹⁶ The Vatican issued as communiqué that was reported on February 8, 1960 that the secret contained "words" from the apparition, yet the publicly revealed third secret did not. ³¹⁷

Monsignor (and later Bishop) João Pereira Venâncio received an envelope with a third secret from Lúcia in March 1957 in order to deliver it elsewhere and claimed it had margins all around it that were $\frac{3}{4}$ of a centimeter. ³¹⁸ This differs from the publicly revealed letter shown at the Vatican's website which does not have any side margins. ³¹⁹ He also claimed that it had 20 to 25 lines of text, ³²⁰ whereas the released version has more lines. ³²¹

The late Giuseppe De Carli (died July 13, 2010) reported:

Alfredo Cardinal Ottaviani stated that the Secret was written on a single sheet of paper. So we would be talking about twenty to twenty five lines in total, whereas the text presented in the Holy See on June 26, 2000, consisted of sixty-two lines. In other words, it added up to four pages, not one. ³²²

(While one or two of De Carli's numbers seem different than what I have seen, the fact is that there is a major

discrepancy between Cardinal Ottavani's report and the document which is shown currently at the Vatican's website.)

Notice the following account from Solideo Paolini who discussed the secrets with Cardinal Capovilla, who was Pope John XXIII's aide when he originally read the secret:

"I met Archbishop Loris Francesco Capovilla on July 5th 2006 in *Sotto il Monte* [name of a town] at his house...he made me implicitly but unequivocally understand something about the existence of two texts, or at least about certain things not being revealed regarding the Third Secret. When I asked him the question [about the Secret], he literally answered: 'No, look, since it was officially revealed, I must abide by what was declared in the official documents, even if I may know something more'. And at that point, when he said those words 'even if I may know something more', he smiled ironically. Since I was there, I was able to see from his gestures that it was clear: there is something more than what was revealed during the Holy Year 2000 [by the Vatican].

"But what Archbishop Capovilla said to me during a phone call was an even more dead giveaway... 'So, Your Excellency, as regards the two dates in which Pope Paul VI (would have) read the Third Secret, March 27th 1965 and June 27th 1963, which are confirmed by different sources, are they both correct because, in fact, there exists two texts regarding the Third Secret?' I asked him this point-blank. He remained silent for a moment, thinking about it, and then he said to me, literally: 'Precisely

so (*Per l'appunto*)'. This is the most explicit confirmation that anyone could give."³²³

Antonio Socci commented that this was "a veritable bomb" as Capovilla was a "key witness." He then claimed:

There exists a Fourth Secret, or rather a part of the Third Secret (evidently what follows the words of the Virgin interrupted by the "etc.") not yet revealed and which has taken a different course in its meanderings through the Vatican offices.³²⁴

The idea that there may have been two versions and/or two parts of the third secret has been around for a while and has some support.

Cardinal Bertone, in responding to the Capovilla report, wrote that Lúcia, however, stated the following about the publicly revealed third secret:

Yes, this is the Third Secret, and I never wrote any other.³²⁵

So either Cardinal Bertone somehow misrepresented what Lúcia said, there is no other part of the secret, and/or Lúcia lied. But, of course, since she wrote it in a letter and in her notebook, the other possibility is that she was trying to say that the publicly revealed secret was not different than anything else she wrote about it.

On May 4, 2010, Guiseppe De Carli spoke at the *Fatima Challenge* conference. Notice something from one report on that:

During his opening remarks De Carli had described the vision as a scene in which the bishop in white walks amid "*cadaveri cabonizzati*" – charred

bodies. Yet the vision refers only to a ruined city filled with bodies whose cause of death was unknown. Had he been given to know something about the Secret in its entirety – the text deemed “inauthentic” by Bertone and his collaborators? What else would explain this astonishing detail?³²⁶

So, possibly “charred bodies” are part of the third secret.

In an Italian television program on June 23, 2010, Vatican journalist Andrea Tornielli opined, “it is possible, however, given what Sister Lúcia sent to the Vatican during the years, that there might be an attachment, or an explanation to it...that John XXIII and his successors didn’t consider as being fully part of the Third Secret, but just as an interpretation given by Sister Lúcia rather than being part of Our Lady’s apparition. In this sense it was declassified to a mere personal interpretation...But the existence of two texts in two different places seems to me now a well-established fact.”³²⁷

It may also be of interest to note that in May of 2000, Lúcia gave another envelope to Pope John-Paul II. According to Cardinal Bertone, “The owner of that letter is the current Archbishop of Krakow, Stanislaw Dziwisz.”³²⁸ Allegedly, according to what are called “Vatican sources,” in this non-publicly revealed letter, Lúcia warned Pope John-Paul II that “the events spoken of in the Third Secret of Fatima *had not yet occurred*.”³²⁹

Interestingly, in a speech originally given by him in Portuguese (May 13, 2000), Pope John-Paul II stated:

The message of Fatima is a call to conversion, alerting humanity to have nothing to do with the “dragon” whose “tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth” (Rv 12:4).³³⁰

Since the publicly revealed third secret does not mention the term dragon or discussing the loss of “a third of the stars of heaven,” some suggest that Pope John Paul II was trying to reveal more of the third secret than the Vatican would release the next month.³³¹

Furthermore, some have mentioned that Jacinta revealed parts of the secret that were not in the one officially released ‘third secret’ letter from Lúcia.

Testimony From Jacinta

Since Francisco did not hear any words from the Fatima appearances, he simply tended to repeat statements from Lúcia, if he made any comment at all. Yet, his sister Jacinta did claim to have heard the secrets and, despite her promises never to tell anything about them, did make statements which have been recorded.

Apparently according to an official report from Priest Ferrara, Jacinta had three visits from the apparition between October 13, 1917 and August 6, 1918, plus one or more also were claimed to have happened later.³³² So, Jacinta may have had more information than Lúcia reported.

For example, on her deathbed in 1920, Jacinta stated:

If men will repent, God will pardon them, but if they do not amend their lives, there will come upon the earth the most terrible chastisement ever known.³³³

Now that was not part of the third secret that the Vatican revealed. Yet the Catholic writer Desmond Birch (whom I have been able to speak with personally) wrote the following statements about the Jacinta Fatima chastisement prophecy:

...the odds are extremely high that this is an accurate prophecy...Yet a “chastisement” still has not yet come.³³⁴

And so, Desmond Birch still expects that a chastisement will come in the future. Another reason that he does, is that other Catholic private prophecies also tell of such a time.

Jacinta also claims to have been shown the Pope weeping, etc. when Lúcia did not.³³⁵ Lúcia reported that Jacinta also said she saw, “highways and roads full of people, who are crying with hunger and have nothing to eat.”³³⁶

Additionally, Lúcia told Jacinta this had to do with part of the secret.³³⁷ Yet, this was NOT in the publicly revealed “third secret.” Therefore it seems from Lúcia’s own writings that there were other parts of the third secret that 1) Lúcia herself did not personally witness and/or 2) that Jacinta did.

1972 and the Smoke of Satan

1972 is considered significant by many because of statements from the pontiff at the time:

Pope Paul VI spoke on June 29 at St. Peter’s Basilica and said: “By means of some fissure, the smoke of Satan has entered the temple of God...”³³⁸

Because of the above statement, some believe that this confirmed that the third message of Fatima had to do with sin/Satan entering/taking over the Church of Rome beginning in 1972 (though this speech, according to Desmond Birch, whom I checked with, was not intended to have anything to do with Fatima).³³⁹

In a radio interview in 1998, Priest Malachi Martin stated that the third secret was related to a pope being under the control of Satan.³⁴⁰ He claimed he had first read the “Secret” (or a transcription of it) in February 1960 when Cardinal Agostino Bea showed it to him.³⁴¹

But irrespective of that, notice also the following:

Vatican Chief Exorcist Priest Gabriele Amorth said: “he has dealt with 70,000 cases of demonic possession, said that the consequences of Satanic infiltration included power struggles at the Vatican as well as **“cardinals who do not believe in Jesus, and bishops who are linked to the Demon”**. He added: “When one speaks of ‘the smoke of Satan’ [a phrase coined by Pope Paul VI in 1972] in the holy rooms, it is all true – including these latest stories of violence and paedophilia.”³⁴²

Both biblical and Catholic prophesy tell of a coming ecumenical religious leader (who sounds like an antipope) that will not really believe in his faith. Such leaders are already in the Vatican if people such as Priest Amorth can be believed.

Because of reports mentioning 1972 and other problems, some who call themselves Catholic believe that the previous pope and current pontiff have not been truly faithful to the Church of Rome.

I, however, do believe that the current Pope Benedict XVI is committed to the Roman Catholic faith as he understands it—but the one who replaces him may not be. If a combination of certain Catholic prophecies is correct, the next pope is likely to be an antipope/antichrist (see chapter 11).

And that is also a biblical possibility.

Pedophilia is Part of the Third Secret?

Yet, the fact that the Vatican’s former chief exorcist tied the smoke in with pedophilia is of interest.

Why?

Because on May 11, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI himself tied the message of Fatima in with the pedophilia crisis

that has been plaguing the Church of Rome.³⁴³ Since there is nothing directly mentioning pedophilia in the revealed third secret, there may be another portion of the Fatima message that he has had access to. Others, like the Fatima Center, have long felt that Pope Benedict saw more about the Fatima secret than the letter from Lúcia.³⁴⁴

Furthermore, it should be added that as far back as 2002, a book edited by Priest Paul Kramer included the following:

Most Catholics have been stunned by the recent cascade of sexual abuse of children...In their search for an explanation for this appalling situation, Catholics and others might well look to the still un-revealed Third Secret...it is widely known that among the few men that enter “mainstream” seminaries...a very high percentage is homosexual.³⁴⁵

At first glance, this gives Priest Kramer and company a certain credibility regarding a ‘missing’ portion of the secret, as Pope Benedict seemingly confirmed the pedophilia scandal was related to the Fatima message. Yet, since Lúcia reported that Jacinta’s account that “the Holy Father...was weeping”³⁴⁶ was “part of the secret”³⁴⁷, it is also possible that Pope Benedict simply interpreted the scandal as fulfilling that account of Fatima. The Pope did not specify.

The Fatima Crusader, which also reported about the pedophilia connection to the third secret by Pope Benedict,³⁴⁸ published the following related to May 11, 2011 (**bolding** in source):

Pope Benedict replied: “...In addition to this great vision of the suffering of the Pope, which we can

substantially refer to John Paul II, **are also pointed out realities of the future of the Church, which unfold and reveal themselves day by day...**"

This is the first time that the Pope, or anyone else in the Vatican, has acknowledged that the vision (and the still hidden text of Our Lady's words **in the Third Secret**) **refers to the still unfolding future history of the Church.**³⁴⁹

So, it is the opinion of *The Fatima Crusader* that this is the first time any pope admitted that the third secret of Fatima had future ramifications. This could come somewhat as a shock to some Catholics.

But my concern is that the statements from Pope Benedict XVI may be used by a future antipope to justify how he may want the Fatima messages interpreted. And that is one of the many dangers of Fatima.

The Fourth Secret of Fatima

Is there a fourth secret?

Notice an excerpt from Antonio Socci's book *The Fourth Secret of Fatima*:

But that there is part of the Secret not revealed and considered "unspeakable" is certain.³⁵⁰

Notice what statements published in 2005 in *La Repubblica* by Ali Ağca claim about the third secret:

...the Third Secret should be revealed in its entirety, especially the part which makes reference to the Antichrist.³⁵¹

While Ali Ağca may not be a highly credible source, various Catholic sources have claimed that the unrevealed

portion of the third secret mentions something about a pope becoming an antipope and/or the final Antichrist.

Lúcia herself indicated that there were other secrets she withheld. For example, after some apparently mystical experience later claimed to be on June 13, 1929 (which was apparently in 1930 according to the original note she wrote) Lúcia reported:

...the Most Holy Trinity...I received lights about this mystery which I am not permitted to reveal.³⁵²

She also stated the following to Priest Augustin Fuentes on December 26, 1957:

Tell them, Father, the Most Holy Virgin told my cousins Francisco and Jacinta, as well as myself, that many nations will disappear from the face of the earth.³⁵³

Yet, there is no message in any of the publicly revealed secrets that quite says that. Furthermore, in that same 1957 interview, Lúcia also indicated that apostasy was part of the third secret.

Priest Nicholas Gruner, who once received a papal blessing from Pope John-Paul II (a copy of which I have viewed³⁵⁴) which apparently was mainly for his Fatima work, wrote the following:

The coming of the Antichrist is predicted in Sacred Scripture as well as in the Third Secret of Fatima.³⁵⁵

Lúcia once claimed the following about the third secret:

It is in the Gospel and the *Apocalypse*.³⁵⁶

Antonio Socci also had the following in his book:

...Sister Lúcia herself, in her extremely rare (authentic) public declarations, explicitly linked the third part of the Secret to the Apocalypse: "It is all in the Apocalypse—read it!" She also indicated precisely Chapters 8 and 13 of the Apocalypse. And this is truly disquieting, because the eighth chapter regards the plague that will rain down upon the earth and others things regarding the times of the Antichrist.³⁵⁷

An earlier writer stated, "We even know that Lucy one day indicated Chapters 8-13 of the *Apocalypse*."³⁵⁸

Chapter 13 of the Apocalypse/Book of Revelation specifically discusses the one who most consider to be the final Antichrist. Chapter 8 discusses a great earthquake, that seven trumpets will sound, and that four trumpets are sounded. Those four trumpets tell of disasters related to hail and fire destroying 1/3 of the trees and green grass (8:7), destruction of 1/3 of life and ships in the sea (8:8-9), 1/3 of rivers and waters becoming bitter (8:10-11), and 1/3 of the stars, etc. being darkened (8:12).

Others do not necessarily call what may be missing from the public eye the "fourth secret," but have nevertheless believed that there was an envelope that contained a letter from Lúcia with 25-26 lines³⁵⁹ that told of the rise of an Antipope, who would also be the Antichrist.

Comments from Clerics and Others on the Secret

Various members of the Catholic clergy would have had access to the secret and presumably the contents of a second envelope, presuming it ever existed.

In a 1990 book, the late Priest Malachi Martin claimed:

In 1944, under orders from her bishop, she wrote down on one sheet of paper the bare details of that secret...In that "Third Secret" indeed, Lúcia's words are so explicit and so *verifiable* – and therefore so authentic – that were the leaders of the Leninist Party-State to know those words, they would in all probability decide to undertake certain territorial and militaristic moves against which the West would have few if any means of resisting...³⁶⁰

The fact that he referred to a single sheet of paper ten years BEFORE the official release seems consistent with those who say that more exists on a single sheet of paper.

Also notice: "on May 31, 2007, when Cardinal Bertone finally revealed to the world, on TV, the actual document... it's on one sheet of paper folded over...And yet, Cardinal Bertone has Sister Lucy telling us there are 'my sheets' of paper...there are two...different documents which Sister Lucy wrote out the whole Third Secret."³⁶¹

But only one document has been publicly shown, and with limited information. Cardinal Mario Luigi Ciappi served as the personal theologian for five popes from 1955 to 1989.³⁶² A letter he sent to Professor Baumgartner of Salzburg stated:

In the Third Secret it is foretold, amongst other things, that *the great apostasy in the Church will begin at the top.*³⁶³

Priest Paul Kramer reported:

In 1999...Malachi Martin stated...that Our Lady's words were very dry and specific and they foretold

of a future "pope" (not the true Pope, but a heretical antipope) who would be completely under the control of the devil. It is clear then, that the Third Secret of Fatima reveals the "mystery of iniquity" (2 Thess. 2:7), the mystery of the red dragon, whose tail swept down a third of the "stars of Heaven", i.e. one third of the Catholic hierarchy.³⁶⁴

While many Catholic writers about private prophecies generally accept that an antipope is coming (see also chapter 11), there is much less agreement that the third secret of Fatima contained warnings about a coming antipope. But it seems that Lúcia and others may have confirmed it.

Ecumenism and Free Masonry

In a letter to Professor Baumgartner, Cardinal Mario Luigi Ciampi wrote:

In the Third Secret... [w]hat is foretold is that the partisans of the devil will occupy the Roman Curia under a Masonic antipope.³⁶⁵

Priest Paul Kramer claims:

...ecumenism is the greatest threat to the Church. Ecumenism was created by the greatest, most mortal enemies of the Church for the purpose of destroying the Church. Ecumenism is the greatest obstacle to unity, and yet we are told that we must promote ecumenism for the sake of unity.³⁶⁶

Now we can begin to grasp what the Third Secret is dealing with: the Great Apostasy and loss of Faith, and what will bring that about. Because the unity that will be created by ecumenism is the unity sought after for centuries by Freemasonry.³⁶⁷

The current ecumenical movement is probably the greatest single threat to the world as, with some changes (2 Thessalonians 2:7-12), it is prophesied to succeed (Revelation 13:3-8), but eventually its two top leaders will be destroyed by Christ (Revelation 19:19-20).

Two messages were allegedly given from a locution or apparition in 1989 to the *Marian Movement of Priests* regarding the Beasts of Revelation 13:

The seven heads indicate the various Masonic lodges...This Black Beast has ten horns, and on the horns, ten crowns, which are signs of dominion and royalty. Masonry rules and governs throughout the world by means of the ten horns...

The beast with two-horns like a lamb indicates that Freemasonry infiltrated to the interior of the Church...This Masonic infiltration, in the interior of the Church, was already foretold to you by me at Fatima, when I announced that Satan would enter even into the summit of the Church... building a new idol, namely a false Christ and a false church.³⁶⁸

In 2009, when privately asked what he considered to be the greatest danger facing the Church of Rome, Pope Benedict XVI *reportedly* responded with "Freemasonry."³⁶⁹

Notice more of what Priest Paul Kramer wrote about Masonry:

We can go back further and we will see that ecumenism...was first promoted by Freemasonry. It is of Jewish origin...It is Freemasonry that would set up in the world a one-world religion with this Jewish/Protestant idea of unity.³⁷⁰

There will be peace...the Neo-Pagan Masonic 'mystery of iniquity' (2 Thes 2:7) - will be crushed under the heel of Her who is "terrible as an army set in battle array" (Canticle 6:3, 9)³⁷¹

While I agree that ecumenism is a major danger, the Bible does show that the truly faithful, living, Church of God has certain characteristics of "Jews" (1 Thessalonians 2:14; Revelation 3:9). Could it be that some false message related to those following the practices of the faithful early "Jewish" "Nazarene" (Acts 24:5) Christians (who are neither Masonic nor Neo-Pagan, though their faithful remnant sometimes rent Masonic lodges because of cost and other considerations) could be twisted and condemned?

That might be, and that may be another shocking message that may end up being tied to Fatima.

European Union a Threat?

Some Fatimists have indicated that they consider that the European Union is a threat and is somehow tied into the Fatima message:

We are now under a very undemocratic — one might say bureaucratic — dictatorship...imposed on all of the member states of the European Union from Brussels...³⁷²

...Our Lady spoke of the annihilation of nations... The European Union is intent on destroying nation states, suppressing national identities and borders...³⁷³

Priest Paul Kramer reported the following:

Zachary the Armenian Jew who converted to the Catholic Faith - published in 1854...there would be

the war that the prophecy refers to as “the struggle of the strong, against the strong”. This empire of the north...will go to war against North America and North America will fall and be conquered and brought into bondage...

World War III in the Third Secret

This is the Third Secret. How close are we now to the great war that will usher in the godless empire, the one world religion of Masonry? ³⁷⁴

Now the expression “empire of the North” is similar to that of the final “King of the North” in Bible prophecy (cf. Daniel 11:40). Many believe that this northern kingdom will be a European power (though not necessarily the European Union as currently structured).

The Fatima Crusader claims:

The European Union...which is day by day destroying the nation states of Europe and making them into a Masonic super state.³⁷⁵

Thus, some Catholic writers are concerned about what is happening in Europe as well as the ecumenical movement that is happening in the world (what is now going in Europe shows signs of incohesiveness consistent with Daniel 2:41-43, but a restructure is prophesied in Revelation 17:12-13).

Whether or not a warning about Europe and ecumenism was actually part of the Fatima message is not clear. But what is clear is that the Bible warns against the coming European “King of the North” (cf. Daniel 11:31-44; 9:26-27, who I believe is now physically living) and an ecumenical religion that he seems to advocate (Daniel 11:36-38; Revelation 13:1-8).

7. LÚCIA'S MESSAGES OF 1930 CHALLENGE CATHOLIC SAINTS

Lúcia claimed to have received messages in 1930 that contradicted positions held by a number of Catholic and/or Eastern Orthodox saints.

Many of the “blasphemy positions” that Lúcia reported were unfounded innovations that are not supported by sacred scripture or the earliest traditions of the Christian church.

The historical facts prove the lack of Divine inspiration for the 1930 apparition.

In 1926, 1927, and 1930, Lúcia claimed to have had other “mystical experiences” including messages from the night.

Lúcia was asked by her then confessor (Priest Jose Bernardo Gonçalves) why the Fatima apparition asked for five Saturdays in honor of the Lady, as opposed to some other number.

In a letter to her confessor dated June 12, 1930, Lúcia claimed that she was told the following on the night of May 29th-30th, 1930:

There are five kinds of offenses and blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary: (1) blasphemies against her Immaculate Conception; (2) against her perpetual virginity; (3) against her divine maternity, refusing to accept her at the same time as the Mother of humankind; (4) by those who try to publicly implant in the hearts of children an indifference, contempt, or even hate

for this Immaculate Mother; and (5) for those who insult her sacred images.³⁷⁶

Priest Andrew Apostoli, in his *Fatima for Today* book, wrote:

Those who commit such blasphemies against our Lady are in grave danger of losing their souls, for these sins seriously offend God himself.³⁷⁷

I was shocked to read the above.

Now if *all* five of those statements are blasphemies, then many early Catholic and Eastern Orthodox saints are guilty of blasphemy by that definition.

History records that recognized Catholic and/or Eastern Orthodox saints such as Melito, Irenaeus, Theophilus of Antioch, Origen, Basil, Cyprian of Carthage, John Chrysostom, Ambrose, Hilary, Gregory of Tours, Bernard of Clairvoux, Bonaventure, “Albert the Great,” and Thomas Aquinas all took one or more positions that the “messenger” apparently considered to be blasphemous.

Since Priest Apostoli says that salvation may be lost for taking positions against those messages, does not this mean that he is challenging the validity of the sainthood of all Catholic-approved saints who took such supposedly “blasphemous” positions?

He surely does not intend to, but that is what some of the “blasphemy messages” really mean. Priest Apostoli should realize, that like all private Catholic prophecy, those messages from an apparition do not need to be accepted. Those May 1930 messages were not approved of God and most are in opposition to sacred scripture.

And as far as the messages being about sins that seriously offend God, perhaps we should first look at the Bible’s clearest definition of sin:

4 Whosoever committeth sin committeth also iniquity; and sin is iniquity. (1 John 3:4, DRB)

4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. (1 John 3:4, KJV)

So sin is iniquity. Sin is the transgression of the law. Furthermore, the Bible teaches:

15...where there is no law, neither is there transgression. (Romans 4:15, DRB)

15...where there is no law there is no transgression. (Romans 4:15, NKJV)

Yet, other than those referring to those which deny that Mary was the mother of the Lord Jesus or promote hate, none of these alleged “blasphemies” would be considered as sins transgressing the law of God in sacred scripture.

Thus, for some to claim that *all* of them are serious sins against God simply does not have scriptural backing.

Teaching Against the Immaculate Conception

It needs to be understood that the idea of an Immaculate Conception for Mary was not an early tradition of the church nor is it taught in scripture.

The *Catholic Encyclopedia* article of the *Immaculate Conception* clearly recognizes this:

No direct or categorical and stringent proof of the dogma can be brought forward from Scripture.³⁷⁸

So, the doctrine is simply not provable from the Holy Bible.

One aspects of the belief in Mary's "Immaculate Conception" is that "she was immune from all sin, personal, or inherited."³⁷⁹ Yet, scripture states:

23 For all have sinned, and do need the glory of God. 24 Being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption, that is in Christ Jesus, (Romans 3:23-24, DRB)

All, including Mary, sinned, and need redemption through Christ Jesus (and not Mary) according to the Bible.

Notice that the *Catholic Encyclopedia* article of the *Immaculate Conception* also teaches:

* Origen...thought that...for her sins also Christ died (Origen, "In Luc. Hom. Xvii").

*...St. Basil writes in the fourth century: he sees in the sword, of which Simeon speaks, the doubt which pierced Mary's soul (Epistle 259).

* St. Chrysostom accuses her of ambition, and of putting herself forward unduly when she sought to speak to Jesus at Capharnaum (Matthew 12:46; Chrysostom, Homily 44 on Matthew).³⁸⁰

The book *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma* also admits that "individual Greek Fathers (Origen, St. Basil, St. John Chrysostom, St. Cyril of Alexandria) taught that Mary suffered from venial personal faults, such as ambition and vanity, doubt about the message of the Angel, and lack of faith under the Cross..."³⁸¹

Either those Catholic saints (or Orthodox saints in the case of Origen) were not committing blasphemy, they were not really saints, and/or the messages that Lúcia was told did not come from God.

Additionally, as late as the early 5th century, even the Catholic saint Augustine would not teach as dogma that Mary was without sin.³⁸²

About 1140, the Catholic saint Bernard of Clairvaux warned the faithful not to believe the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary as it was an unfounded innovation.³⁸³

The *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma* also teaches that “the leading theologians of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (Petrus Lombardus, St. Alexander of Hales, St. Bonaventure, St. Albert the Great, St. Thomas Aquinas...) rejected the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.”³⁸⁴

Thus, to teach that it is blasphemy or a serious sin against God to not accept the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary (as being different than how other humans were conceived) does not seem to be a biblical or early historical truth—even Catholic saints opposed the view.

Notice also what Jesus taught:

32 And the multitude sat about him; and they say to him: Behold thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee.

33 And answering them, he said: Who is my mother and my brethren?

34 And looking round about on them who sat about him, he saith: Behold my mother and my brethren.

35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, he is my brother, and my sister, and mother. (Mark 3:32-35, DRB)

Jesus is showing that all who do God's will are His mother, brother, or sisters. If Mary was sinless or conceived differently, He would have not included His mother in those statements.

The Eastern Orthodox in their *Patriarchal Encyclical of 1895* declared:

XIII. The one holy, catholic and apostolic Church of the seven Ecumenical Councils teaches that the supernatural incarnation of the only-begotten Son and Word of God, of the Holy Ghost and the Virgin Mary, is alone pure and immaculate; but the Papal Church scarcely forty years ago again made an innovation by laying down a novel dogma concerning **the immaculate conception of the Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary, which was unknown to the ancient Church** (and strongly opposed at different times even by the more distinguished among the Papal theologians).

Thus, the Eastern Orthodox have long taught that the idea of an "Immaculate Conception" of Mary was "unknown by the ancient Church."³⁸⁶ And they correctly teach that Jesus alone is pure and immaculate, and refer to the Immaculate Conception teaching as a novel "innovation." An innovation adopted since the 1800s is not an original teaching – true traditionalists cannot accept such late traditions as essential.

Since Pope Benedict XVI considers that those of the Eastern Orthodox are churches in "the proper sense,"³⁸⁷ obviously the Pope does not believe that they are committing sin or blasphemy in denying the modern teaching of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

Nor should anyone else based upon what the Bible teaches.

Teachings Against Mary's Perpetual Virginity

While Lúcia's mystical visitor claimed it was wrong to teach "against her perpetual virginity," the Holy Bible seems to teach something very different.

Notice more of what it teaches about Mary and her family.

25 And he knew her not till **she brought forth her first born son:** and called his name JESUS (Matthew 1:25, DRB).

55...Is not his mother the woman called Mary, and his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Jude?

56 His sisters, too, are they not all here with us? (Matthew 13:55b-56a, NJB).

3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joseph, and Jude, and Simon? Are not also his sisters here with us? (Mark 6:3a, DRB)

Jesus was Mary's first born son—the implication, which is confirmed in scripture, is that she had other sons. While some have argued that the term for brothers in Matthew 13:55 may mean cousins, the Greek expressions for brothers (*adephos*) and sisters (*adelphe*) are what is in the Greek texts. The Greek terms in those verses do not mean cousins;³⁸⁸ the Greek terms that better convey "cousin" are *suggenh/suggenes/aneptsios*.³⁸⁹ And those terms are the only ones that are translated as "cousin" in the Rheims New Testament (Luke 1:36 DRB; Colossians 4:10 DRB). Mark 6:3 also uses the same Greek expression for sisters (*adelphe*)

and not cousins. Thus, even the Catholic translations seemingly admit that Jesus had brothers and sisters. If the terms in *koine* Greek clearly meant cousins, then most of those who professed Christ and lived in first century or so after His incarnation would have realized that. But that was not their position.

Furthermore, notice the following:

56 Among whom were Mary Magdalen, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. (Matthew 27:56, DRB)

The scripture above clearly states that Mary was the mother of James and Joseph. And this is the Mary, mother of Jesus (Mark 6:3; John 2:1) – the Greek term for mother, *meêteer*, is the same as the one in John 2:1 where Mary is referred to as Jesus’ mother). James and Joseph were not Jesus’ half-brothers from a sometimes claimed prior marriage for Joseph, Mary’s husband. Notice what Catholic Priest and scholar Bagatti has published:

Of the relatives of the Lord mention is made in the Gospels; four are called “brothers of Jesus”, namely James, Joseph (Josuah), Simon and Jude. The first two have Mary as their mother Matt. 27, 56).³⁹⁰

Hence, since the Bible does not say Mary would remain a virgin and it shows that Jesus had brothers and sisters, there is no biblical reason to accept the doctrine of Mary’s perpetual virginity (but many still do).

Origin and Opposition to Perpetual Virginity Claim

Perhaps the earliest claim as to Mary’s so-called perpetual virginity comes from a false document known

as the *Protoevangelium of James*.³⁹¹ It only claims that right after her giving birth to Jesus a midwife indicated that Mary had intact evidence of virginity. The document falsely claims to have been written by James in Jerusalem³⁹² and in the first century – scholars realize it is false as it was a second century document written by someone other than James.³⁹³ Thus, this teaching seems to have started from false sources.

The idea of Mary being a perpetual virgin was denounced shortly after it started to become popular, by various ones, including “Ebionites.”³⁹⁴ *The Catholic Encyclopedia* also notes that in the third and fourth centuries:

...the Antidicomarianites, maintained that the “brethren” of Jesus were His uterine brothers the sons of Joseph and Mary.³⁹⁵

Antidicomarianites... teach that, although Our Lord was born of Mary through the Holy Ghost, afterwards Joseph and Mary lived in wedlock and had many other children.³⁹⁶

The Catholic Encyclopedia also mentions that “St. Ambrose, St. Hilary, and St. Gregory of Tours” held positions similar to many of the Antidicomarianites. Christians with practices some considered to be Jewish were among the early opponents.³⁹⁷

Furthermore, another article in *The Catholic Encyclopedia* states: “writers like Tertullian, Hevidius, and possibly Hegesippus disputed the perpetual virginity of Mary.”³⁹⁸ While *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma* adds that the perpetual virginity of Mary was also denied in the “Early Church” by Eunomius, Jovian, Helvidus, and Bishop Bonosus of Sardica.³⁹⁹

The Greco-Roman “Saint Basil the Great” in the fourth century wrote:

“[The opinion that Mary bore several children after Christ] ... is not against the faith; for virginity was imposed on Mary as a necessity only up to the time that she served as an instrument for the Incarnation. On the other hand, her subsequent virginity was not essential to the mystery of the Incarnation.”⁴⁰⁰

Therefore, the idea that from the beginning all believed that Mary was a “perpetual virgin” simply is without real merit.

For an apparition to say that it is blasphemous to accept what sacred scripture says about Mary is, of itself, blasphemous. History proves that there simply was not a universal belief among non-heretics in the first few centuries A.D. that Mary was a perpetual virgin.

Teaching Against Mary’s Maternity

This particular item had two parts. Sort of like the knowledge of good and evil (cf. Genesis 2:17), some of this is right and some of this is wrong.

Mary clearly was the mother of Jesus (Luke 2:5-7) and Jesus is divine (John 1:1,14; 20:28-29), so it is blasphemous to teach otherwise.

Yet, it is wrong to declare that “refusing to accept her at the same time as the Mother of humankind” is blasphemous.

Diana of Ephesus was “regarded as...the mother of mankind” while an inscription on one of her images claimed she was “the mother of all things.”⁴⁰¹

There is no verse in the Holy Bible that teaches that Mary is the mother of humankind. Instead, the Bible clearly teaches:

20 And Adam called the name of his wife Eve:
because she was the mother of all the living.
(Genesis 3:20, DRB)

Thus, from a physical perspective, Eve is the mother of humankind. And while some wish to argue that since Jesus is “the last” (or second) Adam (1 Corinthians 15:22,45),⁴⁰² Mary must be the second Eve, this is an argument outside of what is clearly defined in sacred scripture. And while certain types of arguments have been made,⁴⁰³ the reality is that this belief certainly is not a biblical (nor Catholic) dogma, and disagreeing with it is not blasphemous.

True Christians Do Not Hate Mary

The fourth “blasphemy” was towards “those who try to publicly implant in the hearts of children an indifference, contempt, or even hate for this Immaculate Mother.”

The Bible shows that Christ’s followers would call Mary “blessed” (Luke 1:48). And they should.

Christians are also to love their neighbors (Matthew 22:39). Jesus also taught that Christians are to love their enemies, not showing them hate (Matthew 5:43-44). Thus, Christians should hate no one.

In the New Testament, Christians are basically only told to hate false doctrines and improper deeds (Revelation 2:6,15).

Therefore, no one should hate nor have contempt towards Mary. Nor should they refuse to accept what the Bible teaches people should know about her.

Early Christians Opposed Idols and Did Not Have Marian Statues

The final of the five so-called blasphemies in the message was towards “those who insult her sacred images.”

Yet, there are several problems with that.

However, before addressing them, let us look at some of what Priest Apostoli wrote in his discussion of this item:

Immodest images have been made of Mary, and her likeness has been made out of reviling materials, which would not be tolerated for people in public office. Her images are used in neo-pagan religious practices and sold in shops that encourage idolatry, witchcraft, and deviant behavior.⁴⁰⁴

I do agree that sexually immodest public statues of women, neo-pagan religious practices, images that encourage witchcraft, statues that encourage biblically-deviant behaviors, and images/statues that encourage idolatry are wrong.

Yet, it is that idolatry item which is a major part of why there are at least three problems with this “blasphemy.”

The first issue is that there are no “sacred images” that the Old or New Testament tells Christians to care about or otherwise venerate.

Secondly, there is no evidence that the original apostles considered that “sacred images” were part of the tradition of the early church.

Thirdly, second century saints like Theophilus and Melito opposed them.⁴⁰⁵

For example, Melito of Sardis (around 170 A.D.) wrote:

We are not those who pay homage to stones, that are without sensation; but of the only God, who

is before all and over all, and, moreover, we are worshippers of His Christ, who is veritably God the Word existing before all time.⁴⁰⁶

Thus, Saint Melito was in essence telling people that Christians did not have any sacred images. Others considered Catholic saints, such as Irenaeus⁴⁰⁷ and Justin Martyr,⁴⁰⁸ as well as the apologists Athenagoras⁴⁰⁹ and Tertullian,⁴¹⁰ also took similar positions in the second century. Notice something from the Bible which sounds similar to what Saint Melito wrote:

18 What doth the graven thing avail, because the maker thereof hath graven it, a molten, and a false image? Because the forger, thereof, hath trusted in a thing of his own forging to make dumb idols. 19 Woe to him that saith to wood: Awake: to the dumb stone: Arise: can it teach? Behold, it is laid over with gold, and silver, and there is no spirit in the bowels thereof. 20 But the Lord is in his holy temple... (Habakkuk 2:18-20a, DRB)

Though some claim that the “early Christians decorated the walls of the catacombs with images of...Mary,”⁴¹¹ this is misleading as the first Marian images did not appear until well after her death (200-250 A.D. is normally claimed⁴¹²). My wife and I have visited various catacombs in Rome and can also attest for the lack of abundant EARLY Marian images.

Fourthly, when images started to appear in conjunction with those who professed Christ, they have tended to be denounced by certain Catholic leaders. *The Catholic Encyclopedia* also shows that the Catholic saint Cyprian of

Carthage and "Eusebius of Caesarea...must be counted among the enemies of icons."⁴¹³

Fifthly, notice some passages from the Bible:

47 So look, the days are coming when I shall punish the idols of Babylon. (Jeremiah 51:47, NJB)

52 Therefore behold the days come, saith the Lord, and I will visit her graven things, and in all her land the wounded shall groan (Jeremiah 51:52, DRB).

11...I will take away sorceries out of thy hand, and there shall be no divinations in thee. 12 And I will destroy thy graven things, and thy statues out of the midst of thee: and thou shalt no more adore the works of thy hands. (Micah 5:11-12, DRB)

The work of human hands, including graven statues that some have claimed represent Mary, should not be adored.

Furthermore, notice an accusation against those who professed Christ in the second/third century (date uncertain):

Why have they no altars, no temples, no acknowledged images?⁴¹⁴

The fact that early professors of Christ did not have any "acknowledged images" (though some utilized crosses and/or paintings related to their funerals) should make it clear that it was an added innovation for images, such as statues, to be venerated.

The reason the images did not originally exist within Christendom was that people like the Apostle John and the Prophet Isaiah warned against such things:

16 They are shamed and humbled every one of them, humiliated they go, the makers of idols. (Isaiah 45:15, NJB)

6 You that contribute gold out of the bag, and weigh out silver in the scales: and hire a goldsmith to make a god: and they fall down and worship.

7 They bear him on their shoulders and carry him, and set him in his piece, and he shall stand, and shall not stir out of his place. Yea, when they shall cry also unto him, he shall not hear: he shall not save them from tribulation.

8 Remember this, and be ashamed: return, ye transgressors, to the heart. (Isaiah 46:6-8, DRB)

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen. (1 John 5:21, DRB)

No serious professor of Christ prior to the late second or early third century is ever described as carrying an idol nor having images in any worship services.

Thus, to teach that it is blasphemous to insult images of stone would seem to be in violation of the teachings of not only scripture (cf. Psalm 113:12-16 DRB or Psalm 115:3-8 NJB/NKJV), but the teachings/practices of many Catholic-acknowledged saints, leaders, and early Christians.

It should be clear to those who believe sacred scripture and who have looked into the teachings and practices of the earliest professors of Christ that the “blasphemy messages” are mainly (though not entirely, because one or two parts are accurate) of themselves, blasphemous.

Notice what God said about those who claimed to be seers or prophets:

28 Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who speaks my word speak my word faithfully. (Jeremiah 23:28, NRSV-Catholic Edition)

Lúcia was not faithful to the word of God.

Therefore, it should be clear to all who revere sacred scripture and accept genuine apostolic traditions that the messages that Lúcia received the night of May 25th-26th 1930 were not from God.

I consider myself faithful to the Church that Jesus founded, with Saint Peter as its first primary human leader. Saint Peter would agree that those I said were not blasphemous would also not be considered as blasphemies. As would the other early apostles like Saint Paul and Saint John who the original Church of God also traces herself through.

8. INCORRUPTIBLE JACINTA AND HEALINGS AS PROOF

The body of Jacinta was found “incorruptible” after being buried for 15 years. While many believe that all “incorruptibles” are Catholic saints, this is not true according to Vatican sources.

Although many believe that having a stigmata is proof of one’s sainthood, this is not the position of the Vatican. There have been many nonpious persons with stigmata, and even Muslims sometimes have their own version of them.

Some have suggested that healings resulting from visiting Fatima is proof of the Divine nature of the apparition, yet those types of healings also have been claimed from sites of “UFOs” and other non-Christian phenomena.

One of the reasons that some seem to believe that the children in Fatima saw Mary, mother of Jesus, is that the body of one of them (Jacinta) apparently did not decay like normal dead bodies. Here are a couple of brief accounts:

Jacinta died in a hospital in Lisbon on February 20, 1920. When her coffin was opened in 1935, her body was found to be incorrupt.⁴¹⁵

To put it plainly, the visions of an Angel by Jacinta Marto...were validated by the most mysterious of divine signs, incorruptibility.⁴¹⁶

“Incorruptibility” has sometimes been interpreted as God’s favor on certain individuals, though the Church of Rome does not actually view it that way.⁴¹⁷ I would like to

note that when I visited her casket, May 2011, which is in the Basilica of the Sanctuary of Fatima, that Jacinta's body is not on visual display and whether or not she still has "incorruptibility" was not determinable then.



Marble Caskets of Jacinta and Lúcia (2011)

Although on the internet it has been claimed “for each incorrupt body discovered, after research has been done to determine who the person was, it has always been determined that the person was an extremely devout Catholic,”⁴¹⁸ that claim is in error. This type of “incorruptibility” has happened to others who were not Catholic, as well as Catholics who were not devout.

Notice the following accounts:

Inside the crypt was the body of one of these Hindu saints, completely incorrupt, completely intact...Opening the other five crypts, the remaining Hindu saints were found in similar fashion.⁴¹⁹

Not all incorruptible are Roman Catholics. Some are not even Christians... Secular incorruptibles may be found worldwide.⁴²⁰

The Thirteenth Dalai Lama also is believed to be an “incorruptible.”⁴²¹ Also, since it appears that only a fraction of Catholic “incorruptibles” have been made saints, the idea that all such incorruptibles were “devout” Catholics seems not to be the case.

Since this is not a phenomena restricted to devout members of any particular faith, and many believe that this phenomena is supernatural, then it would seem that the “supernatural power” that would make this happen would not need to be God of the Bible.

At least one who was baptized as Catholic has claimed that how such “incorruptible” have been preserved “is of Satanic origin.”⁴²² Others have noted that there are at least sixteen Japanese Buddhist priests that were preserved “incorruptible” by taking certain somewhat toxic substances while they were alive in order to essentially mummify them upon death.⁴²³ There is a Japanese, non-Catholic, non-Christian, “incorruptible” priest named Bukkai Shōnin who died in 1903 and is on display sitting up in Japan to this day.⁴²⁴ Some suspect he may have made himself “incorruptible” or that it was done by some type of spirit.

In the case of many of the allegedly “devout Catholic” incorruptibles, I would suspect that they did not do this to themselves prior to dying (in the case of Jacinta, for example, the idea that she could have done this is unreasonable, nor is it likely that any hospital staff would have done this to her). Yet, my reading of what seems to be the most popular Catholic book on the subject, *The Incorruptibles*, shows that even many of the “incorruptible

saints” suffered deterioration/destruction⁴²⁵ or at least discoloration/dryness.⁴²⁶ Some others were artificially preserved,⁴²⁷ while others clearly violated scripture living in a manner indicating that they were not biblically pious.⁴²⁸

And while the writer of that *Incorruptibles* book frequently points to the fact that many of them wore a coarse “hair shirt” as proof of their piety, the Bible teaches that the time is coming that “the prophets will all be ashamed to relate their visions when they prophesy and no longer put on their hair cloaks with intent to deceive” (Zechariah 13:4. NJB).

Notice the following claims from J. Clark on Catholic sainthood practices involving incorruptibles:

In the 20th century, the Catholic Church discontinued the practice of using incorruptibility as a prerequisite for sainthood. The Church wasn’t responding so much to the fraud of some cases, but to the cases in which incorruptible corpses didn’t extol Catholic piety. Members of other religions have been discovered in uncorrupted states.⁴²⁹

While I am not certain that the Church of Rome ever *absolutely required* incorruptibility as a prerequisite proof of sainthood, it is a fact that the piety of the incorruptibles should be called into question. Additionally, the reality is that there were many recognized second century saints who were never found as incorruptible, hence “incorruptibility” is certainly no criteria for sainthood.

To take this a step further, the New Testament is clear that all Christians, and not just those who do miracles or something like that, are saints. The Apostle Paul addressed many of his letters to “the saints” in each of the major areas he wrote to (cf. Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2), which

suggested that there were many. And furthermore, unlike the so-called incorruptibles, all the saints the Apostle Paul wrote to were still living.

Concerning physical incorruptibility, the *New Catholic Encyclopedia* of 1967 stated, "Many cases could possibly have a natural explanation or be caused by diabolical power."⁴³⁰

The word *diabolical* comes from the word *devil*. The word *devil*, in Portuguese, for example is *diabo*. Hence, incorruptibility is recognized by at least some of the Catholic clergy as possibly being from the devil.

Now the Bible does discuss a concept of the dead becoming incorruptible:

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it shall rise in incorruption...

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot possess the kingdom of God: neither shall corruption possess incorruption...

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall rise again incorruptible: and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption; and this mortal must put on immortality.
(1 Corinthians 15:42, 50, 52-53, DRB)

Please carefully notice that the dead start off in corruptible bodies but end up with incorruptible ones *after* the resurrection from the dead. Since all the bodies of the so-called incorruptibles (Catholic and otherwise) are all dead, they are not "incorruptible" in the biblical sense. Although the Bible prophecies that Jesus' flesh

would not see corruption (Psalm 16:10) and that was fulfilled (Acts 2:31), there is nothing in the Bible that suggests that any other than Jesus were “incorruptible” or that God would use that as a sign of His devout servants. In fact sacred scripture seems to teach the opposite (1 Corinthians 15:42, 50).

Pope Pius X is another of the so-called “incorruptibles,” yet in 1903 he proclaimed, “the Son of Perdition of whom the Apostles speak, is already among us.”⁴³¹ But since that individual would likely be dead by now, it appears that the pontiff was in error.

The Bible specifically warns about a lady that uses witchcraft and spells (Isaiah 47:9 NJB) – could this be what has caused many of the “incorruptibles” and perhaps explains why most later suffered deterioration?

Possession of Stigmata is Not Proof of Sainthood

Does having the wounds that allegedly mimic the wounds of Jesus Christ prove that one is a Roman Catholic saint?

No.

As of about 1996, it was reported there had been 325 stigmatics since Catholic saint Francis (who is considered to have been the first) and only 62 canonized.⁴³¹ There have been more canonized since, but the fact that many have not been, should give Catholics some pause here.

One of my shocks in researching this book came when I read the following statements from a Catholic investigator (officially called a *consultor*), Priest John Lozano, of possible sainthoods:

We know that mystics that have the stigmata copy the crucifixes that they see. If the wounds of the crucifix are on the wrong place, they will appear that way on the body. Similarly, if they have seen

Mary dressed in red and blue, as she appears in statues in Catalonia, rather than the standard blue and white that is the way she will be dressed in their visions.⁴³²

This is disturbing on many levels. The above investigator referred to these as “fantasies” yet seemed to think some with such “fantasies” were valid saints. But, if the stigmatics are having signs in different parts of their hands, etc. this should demonstrate to anyone who wants to consider that they simply are not actually imitating Jesus. God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). And if many stigmatics are not considered to be Catholic saints, then shouldn’t Catholics consider that these manifestations either are somehow self-induced and/or from the devil when not due to chemical or natural causes?

When asked how to distinguish between valid religious/spiritual experiences and psychological trauma, Priest John Lozano responded with:

...religious ecstasy and psychological trauma are similar...behind the ecstasy there is an experience of God, whereas behind the trauma there is not. In trauma, the person cannot recall what happened during the trance state, whereas the ecstatic person is extremely active and alert although the body falls into some kind of lethargy.⁴³³

Now this is a major problem for many Fatima watchers because during the so-called “miracle of the sun,” on October 17, 1917 Lúcia could not recall what she said/shouted while allegedly in some version of ecstasy.⁴³⁴

Related to stigmata surviving on the Eucharistic host, or seeing visions, Priest John Lozano also stated:

Seeing Mary or Jesus or some other holy person does not make the visionary a saint...The church never pronounces on the authenticity of the mystical experience. They know this is sandy ground.⁴³⁵

That would seem to include Fatima.

It may be of interest to note that the Catholic investigator and Priest John Lozano seemed to think, to cite one example of potential saints he investigated, that Alexandrina de Costa (who survived only on the host for over a decade and who had visions) was a “psychologically disturbed woman” who was “obsessed by the Devil” yet overcame him.⁴³⁶ But it would seem that she did not overcome him at all – perhaps the devil overcame her.

Here is some information about the famous stigmatic Pio Padre (birth name Francesco Forgione) from K. Woodward:

Padre Pio is...easily the most famous male stigmatic since St. Francis...the famous friar suffered more than the wounds in his body or bruises from the Devil. For example, there was a period in his life where Vatican officials suspected that Pio Padre's stigmata were self-inflicted... Archbishop *Pasquale* Gagliardi of Manfredonia... denounced him to the Vatican's Holy Office. At various times, he was forbidden to say Mass, except privately, and to speak with women: at the age of seventy-three he was suspected, of all things, of taking sexual advantage of female penitents...

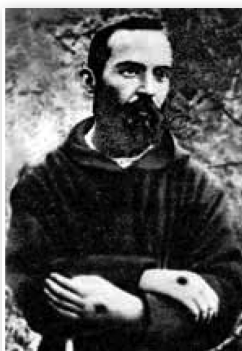
As late as 1960...Bishop Albino Lúciiani of Vittorio Veneto, who later became Pope John

Paul I, dismissed the ministry of *Padre Pio* as “an indigestible dainty” which caters to the “craving for the supernatural and the unusual.”...

The speaker was Father *Paolo Rossi*...Once more I was told that mystical experiences would play no part in determining sanctity. Though he may have wrestled with the Devil and spoken with angels, Padre Pio the stigmatic would be judged by more mundane trials...I was struck by the enormous discrepancy between the popular image of the mystic and the requirements of the saint-making process.⁴³⁷

So, clearly having the stigmata, of itself, is not considered by Catholic leaders as proof of sainthood. Even Catholic saints with stigmatics, like Nun Emmerich, have made “visionary statements” that the Vatican has indicated were untrue.⁴³⁸

These reasons should tell all Catholics that they should not accept various outward signs as proof of God’s approval of one’s life or message (and not even if they have formal acceptance).



Padre Pio

According to the Bible, the person must speak according to the law and the testimony to possibly have God's light of approval:

19 And when they shall say to you: Seek of pythons, and of diviners, who mutter in their enchantments: should not the people seek of their God, for the living of the dead?

20 To the law rather, and to the testimony. And if they speak not according to this word, they shall not have the morning light. (Isaiah 8:19-20, DRB)

One more claim to consider is the following:

Indeed, just as some Christian mystics have produced on their bodies the wounds of the crucified Christ, so some Muslim mystics have produced on their backs the wounds similar to those the Prophet Muhammad suffered in battle.⁴³⁹

Do Catholics believe that the Islamists are manifesting a sign from God?

Probably not, but some of the Islamists probably do.

Outward signs of themselves are not necessarily proof of God's acceptance.

What About the Healings?

Are claimed healings associated with Fatima proof that the messages were from God?

There are several reasons to consider that they are not proof.

The first is that there have been hundreds of claimed healings from those going to discredited sites like Medjugorje. According to Msgr. Pavao Zanic, Bishop of Mostar, the "seers" claimed messages from the "Marian"

apparition that were clearly false and the facts he laid out prove this.⁴⁴⁰ Hence it would not be appropriate to ascribe the “healings” there as approved by God.

The second is that many of the original healings claimed at Fatima seemed to be related to properties that the water and/or soil once had. One study indicated that twenty-nine out of thirty claimed healings at Fatima seemed to be related to the soil and/or water.⁴⁴¹ In fact, many who claimed that they were “healed” indicated that the water and/or soil were decisive factors in their healing.⁴⁴² It has been speculated that perhaps the water and soil in that area no longer has the same healing properties.⁴⁴³ Furthermore, since the area in and around where the Lady appeared five of the six times in 1917 is all under concrete, even if that soil had retained healing properties, direct contact with it is no longer practical.

The third is that many of the “healings” at Fatima appear to be similar to the claimed healings from those who saw various “aliens” or UFOs.⁴⁴⁴ Thus, since Catholics do not normally consider those encounters are from God, then just having a lot of “healings” should not be accepted as absolute proof.

Notice something that the Bible teaches about signs that appear real:

1 “If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder,

2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’

3 “you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

4 You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him (Deuteronomy 13:1-4).

Thus, healings/incorruptibility/stigmatas of themselves should not be considered proof that the messenger and/or the messages are from God. Nor even prophecies that come to pass from “prophets” who do not advocate the original, uncompromised, true faith.

Messages, indicating that Mary is the answer for humankind’s current problems, should not be listened to -- as looking to Mary in that way is NOT biblical, nor is it part of the original apostolic tradition. That type of “Mary” would seem to be a type of “goddess” that original Christians had not known and should not be known by the faithful now.

9. POPE BENEDICT XVI'S CHANGE ON FATIMA

Cardinal Ratzinger wrote that Fatima did not reveal the future, but he seemed to change that position with statements he made as Pope Benedict XVI. Even Cardinal Bertone seems to have expanded his teachings about Fatima to allow for future or prophetic ramifications.

At a press conference in Fatima on October 13, 1996, Bishop Ratzinger (the future Pope Benedict XVI), who had already read the third secret, stated:

The revelation of the Secret must be made only when it will not be able to create one-sidedness and disequilibrium, concentrating only on its details; the revelation should only be made when it can be understood as an aid to the progress of faith.⁴⁴⁵

Yet, in the year 2000, then Bishop Ratzinger indicated that much of the Fatima messages were essentially historical and of no significant future use as he wrote:

No great mystery is revealed; nor is the future unveiled... Insofar as individual events are described, they belong to the past. Those who expected exciting apocalyptic revelations about the end of the world or the future course of history are bound to be disappointed. Fatima does not satisfy our curiosity in this way.⁴⁴⁶

As Antonio Socci also pointed out, there was nothing in the publicly-revealed third secret that many believe should have caused any problem for Catholics.⁴⁴⁷

Priest Paul Kramer reported the following about the 2000 disclosure:

So what is in the Third Secret of Fatima? On the twenty-sixth of June, 2000, five years ago, the Vatican published a vision which they claimed was the entire Third Secret of Fatima. I was talking with a Brazilian Bishop, and he asked me, "Well if there's more to the Third Secret than the vision, are they lying to us, because they said that was the whole Third Secret?" I answered, "Cardinal Ratzinger is using a mental reservation. The entire Secret is implicitly contained in that vision. In that sense, in that very restricted sense, it is the whole Secret."

But the Third Secret properly, so called, is not that vision — that pertains to the Secret — it is part of the Secret, but the Secret consists of Our Lady's words.⁴⁴⁷

So, Priest Kramer believes that Cardinal Ratzinger employed a "mental reservation" to justify why he seemingly mislead people.⁴⁴⁸ It may be of interest to note that Priest Gruner has accused Cardinal Bertone of using a "mental reservation" to not provide the full truth about Fatima⁴⁵⁰ and his publication *The Fatima Crusader* also includes an accusation that "former Cardinal Ratzinger felt justified in adopting a mental reservation concerning the still hidden one-page text of 25 lines that undoubtedly contains the words."⁴⁵¹ Some Fatimists believe that "then-

Cardinal Ratzinger" had a "central role in spinning the 2000 Third Secret vision as a closed book."⁴⁵²

In May 2010, Pope Benedict XVI made some statements that Fatima watchers found of major interest. Here is some of what Pope Benedict stated:

...Dearly beloved brothers and sisters, I too have come as a pilgrim to Fatima...**We would be mistaken to think that Fatima's prophetic mission is complete...**⁴⁵³

Zenit, a pro-Vatican news organization, went so far as to have an article with the headline, *Benedict XVI's Turn Toward Mary*.⁴⁵⁴

Many Catholic Fatima watchers were pleasantly shocked to hear that. So much so that a headline in the following issue of *The Fatima Crusader* was ***Pope Benedict XVI vindicates Fatima Center***.⁴⁵⁶ That particular article mentioned that Pope Benedict also said:

...this great vision...pointed out realities of the future of the Church...not only attacks coming from the outside to the Pope and the Church, but the sufferings of the Church come from right inside the Church, by the sins committed inside the Church itself.⁴⁵⁷

Prior to his stating this, Pope Benedict had been asked if this included pedophilia involved with the priesthood and he agreed that it did. So, the Pope tied pedophilia with Fatima and its predicted disasters for the Church of Rome.

This is all the more interesting as two months prior to this, the Vatican's former top exorcist, Priest G. Amorth, had tied pedophilia in with the "smoke of Satan" affecting the Church of Rome.⁴⁵⁸

In the summer of 2010, *The Fatima Crusader* reported:

Indeed, the Pope's own dramatic changes of position since his election to the papacy indicate that he knows quite well that the Third Secret contains precisely those prophetic warnings we have not yet been allowed to see.⁴⁵⁹

And, it is true that the pope publicly changed his position.

Why Did Pope Benedict Change His Fatima Position?

Many have speculated about why Pope Benedict XVI changed his public position about Fatima being about the past, to it being something still related to the future.

Without going over all of those speculations, it simply may be that he studied the matter further and came to different conclusions than he had a decade earlier. Others suggest that this means that he supports the idea that there is more to the third secret than what was clear in the official disclosure shown in chapter 5.

Some believe that he always somewhat realized that there is more as it has been so reported prior to his becoming pope.⁴⁶⁰

Notice what Priest Paul Kramer stated in an interview (***bolded italics*** in source):

... on October 11, 2001...Howard Dee, former Philippine ambassador to the Vatican, said...
Cardinal Ratzinger personally confirmed to me that these two messages, of Fatima and Akita, are essentially the same."

...we can consider what Our Lady of Akita said to Sister Agnes Katsuko Sasagawa on October 13,

1973, the very anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun, and let me quote this verbatim:

"As I told you, if men do not repent and better themselves, the Father will inflict a terrible punishment on all humanity. It will be a punishment greater than the deluge, such as one will never have seen before. Fire will fall from the sky and will wipe out a great part of humanity, the good as well as the bad, sparing neither priests nor faithful. The survivors will find themselves so desolate that they will envy the dead..."

*"The work of the devil will infiltrate even into the Church in such a way that one will see cardinals opposing cardinals, bishops against bishops. The priests who venerate Me will be scorned and opposed by their confreres ... churches and altars sacked; the Church will be full of those who accept compromises and the demon will press many priests and consecrated souls to leave the service of the Lord."*⁴⁶¹

Thus, some believe that a possibly undisclosed part of the third secret discusses such matters.

Allegedly, according to an anonymous report in 2005, Pope Benedict XVI told an Austrian bishop that he had a problem with "my conscience" regarding "Fatima" and that previously "my hand was forced,"⁴⁶² so maybe that is the reason for the change in 2010. It was also reported that, "On May 13, 2010 at Fatima, the Pope prayed that the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary be realized before 2017."⁴⁶³

The Pope may believe that despite some complaints from certain Protestants that Marian apparitions may help

with future ecumenical plans that he and many others in the Vatican tend to have.

Cardinal Bertone and Pope Francis

In May of 2011, in an interview with an Italian television station, Cardinal Bertone said the prophecy of Fatima is only “partially fulfilled.”⁴⁶⁴ About that the *Fatima Center Newsletter* reported:

Cardinal Bertone is...the man who has insisted Fatima is finished. This is the man who wrote a book trying to prove it.⁴⁶⁵

So, a major Vatican official (other than the pope) has possibly also changed his public position on Fatima.

Both the Pope’s 2010 public change in position and that of Cardinal Bertone in 2011 have excited many Fatima watchers (though neither actually officially declared that believing the messages of Fatima was required for Catholics). The Vatican change may be a factor in at least indirectly supporting the coming ecumenical religion that will likely call itself Catholic.

Yet, even though there appeared to be a change from Pope Benedict XVI, *Catholic News Service* reported on May 24, 2012, “Pope Benedict XVI has reaffirmed that the church never requires the faithful to believe in apparitions, not even those recognized by the church.”⁴⁶⁶ He and others must know some of the problems associated with Fatima. And no one, Catholic or otherwise, should believe that Jesus’ mother Mary appeared in Fatima in 1917.

Despite problems, Pope Francis has embraced much of Fatima. He even had Cardinal Jose Policarpo dedicate his pontificate to the “Lady of Fatima” on May 13, 2013. Pope Francis also declared Jacinta and Francisco to be Catholic saints on May 13, 2017.

10. THE LADY OF THE ROSARY AND THE LADY OF THE KINGDOMS

The Bible, in Isaiah 47 (DRB/NKJV), warns about someone called the “lady of the kingdoms.” Aspects associated with Fatima and other apparitions suggest that they are more related to this Lady, than Mary of the Bible. Interestingly, in the Netherlands, one alleged Marian apparition was similarly named the “Lady of All Nations.”

The Vatican and Christians everywhere realize that “private revelations” are not supposed to override scripture.

Scripture contains enough information “that the man of God may be complete” (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NKJV or “perfect” in the DRB). This means that it is not necessary, amongst other reasons, to add anything to scripture related to “instruction in righteousness” or salvation.

So why mention that here?

To remind everyone that, since items like the rosary are not part of sacred scripture, they are not required for Christians.

The Lady of the Rosary

Remember the apparition at Fatima did not call herself Mary. The apparition indicated that she was, or that she supported, the “Lady of the Rosary.”⁴⁶⁷

Yet, there is no verse in the Holy Bible that says, suggests, or even hints that Mary had a rosary or told people to “pray the rosary” or anything similar. But, the apparition at Fatima did this often.⁴⁶⁸

While it is true that *some* of the verses in the prayer known as “Hail Mary” came from the Bible, the idea of repeating prayers for a long time was condemned by Jesus Himself:

7 And when you are praying, speak not much, as the heathens. For they think that in their much speaking they may be heard. (Matthew 6:7, DRB)

7 In your prayers do not babble as the gentiles do, for they think that by using many words they will make themselves heard. (Matthew 6:7, NJB)

Detailed information on the development of the rosary, primarily according to Catholic sources, is found in the Appendix.

The Lady of the Rosary is not Mary, the Mother of Jesus. What the three children saw was not Mary in a short skirt, but could have been related to “the Lady of Kingdoms,” as she also seems to have a skirt (Isaiah 47:2, 4 NJB/NKJV.)

The Lady of Kingdoms

The Bible warns of a “virgin” that uses enchantments who is also called the Lady of Kingdoms:

1 Come down, sit in the dust, **O virgin daughter of Babylon**, sit on the ground: there is no throne for the daughter of the Chaldeans, for thou shalt no more be called delicate and tender...4 Our redeemer, the Lord of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel. 5 Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for **thou shalt no more be called the lady of kingdoms**. 6 I was angry with my people, I have polluted my inheritance, and have given them into thy bend:

thou hast shown no mercy to them: upon the ancient thou hast laid thy yoke exceeding heavy.

7 And thou hast said: I shall be a lady forever: thou hast not laid these things to thy heart, neither hast thou remembered thy latter end.

8 And now hear these things, thou that art delicate, and dwellest confidently, that sayest in thy heart: I am, and there is none else besides me: I shall not sit as a widow, and I shall not know barrenness.

9 These two things shall come upon thee suddenly in one day, barrenness and widowhood. All things are come upon thee, because of the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great hardness of thy enchanters. 10 And thou best trusted in thy wickedness, and hast said: There is none that seeth me. Thy wisdom, and thy knowledge, this hath deceived thee. And thou best said in thy heart: I am, and besides me there is no other. 11 Evil shall come upon thee, and then shalt not know the rising thereof: and calamity shall fall violently upon thee, which thou canst not keep off: misery shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know. 12 Stand now with thy enchanters, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, in which thou hast laboured from thy youth, if so be it may profit thee any thing, or if thou mayst become stronger. 13 Thou hast failed in the multitude or thy counsels: let now the astrologers stand and save thee, they that gazed at the stars, and counted the months, that from them they might tell the things that shall come to thee. (Isaiah 47:1, 4-7, 11-13, DRB)

Interestingly, the second of the seven wonders of the ancient world has been called, “Babylon the Great, the Lady of the Kingdoms, the glory of the whole earth” (and the fourth wonder was called the temple of Diana of the Ephesians).⁴⁶⁹

The Bible also seems to connect the Lady’s haughty comments in verses 7 & 8 with those of the harlot of Revelation 17:1, 18; 18:7-8, 11 and the city in Zephaniah 2:15.

Some may be surprised to see this, but this immoral “Lady” also seems to have the title of “queen” and “harlot”:

7 You thought, ‘I shall be a queen forever.’ 8...‘I am the only one who matters. I shall never be widowed, never know bereavement.’ 9 Yet both these things will befall you, suddenly, in one day. Bereavement and widowhood will suddenly befall you... (Isaiah 47:7, 8b, 9 NJB)

4 Because of the multitude of harlotries of the seductive harlot, The mistress of sorceries, Who sells nations through her harlotries, And families through her sorceries. (Nahum 3:4, NKJV)

5 Look, I am against you!- declares Yahweh Sabaoth- I shall lift your skirts as high as your face and show your nakedness to the nations, your shame to the kingdoms. (Nahum 3:5, NJB)

3 All the nations have drunk deep of the wine of her prostitution; every king on the earth has prostituted himself with her, and every merchant grown rich through her debauchery. (Revelation 18:3, NJB)

17:1...Come, I will shew thee the condemnation of the great harlot, who sitteth upon many

waters...18:7 As much as she hath glorified herself, and lived in delicacies, so much torment and sorrow give ye to her; because she saith in her heart: **I sit a queen, and am no widow; and sorrow I shall not see.** 8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine, and she shall be burnt with the fire; because God is strong, who shall judge her. (Revelation 17:1b, 18:7-8, DRB)

So, what will happen to the queen/Lady of the Kingdoms as well as to Babylon is warned against in Revelation.

Furthermore, neither the Bible nor the apostles referred to Mary as any type of queen. Sacred scripture clearly warns against doing anything, such as making cakes, to honor one known as "the queen of heaven" (Jeremiah 7:18-19; 44:17-25).

Yet, it has been claimed that "a sect of Christians called Collyridians...made offerings of cakes to the Virgin Mary as a Goddess and Queen of Heaven."⁴⁷⁰ In the fourth century, the Catholic Saint Epiphanius condemned those Marian devotees.⁴⁷¹ He claimed "this idolatrous sect"⁴⁷² glorified "her to excess" and seemed worried that this would spread.⁴⁷³ Because Mary was a woman, Epiphanius then reported that **Mary is not allowed to have any "liturgical function" or 'to speak' in church either.**⁴⁷⁴ Despite Catholics considering the Collyridians heretics, the "Queen of Heaven" title seems to have entered the Vatican itself by way of a "private revelation" in the 7th century.⁴⁷⁵ Others picked it up in that and later centuries.⁴⁷⁶ Some, though the title is not in the Bible, call her "Queen Mary."

Notice also something else about the sorcery Queen/Lady:

2 Remove your veil, **tie up your skirt**, bare your legs, cross the rivers. Let your nakedness be displayed and your shame exposed. **I am going to take vengeance** and no one will stand in my way. (Isaiah 47:2-3 NJB)

This skirted “Lady of Kingdoms” is clearly something Mary of the Bible would not want to be.

Nearly two hundred years ago, Mary Cornwallis observed the following about the passages in Isaiah:

Under new terms we find the prophet denouncing ruin upon the Chaldeans, for their sins, and their abuse of power... O daughter of the Chaldeans; for thou shalt no longer be called, The lady of the kingdoms... While we contemplate the fall of this illustrious city, it must not be forgotten that several passages in the Apocalypse justify the application of these prophecies to the destruction of the Roman empire, of which Babylon is the type.⁴⁷⁷

Yet, notice that some Catholic writers have written that Mary is the Lady (or Queen) of the Kingdoms/Nations (the first three are directly related to the same mystic):

1945-1984...Our Lady appeared...under the title of “Lady of the Nations”...The Church approved these apparitions in 2002.⁴⁷⁸

These apparitions and messages were given to a woman named Ida Peerdeman in Amsterdam, Holland... Apparition – November 16, 1950... “My child, I am standing on this globe, because I want to be called ‘the Lady of All Nations.’”⁴⁷⁹

On March 4, 1951, the Lady says: "...I want to be 'The Lady of All Peoples'..."⁴⁸⁰

In very truth we can say that Mary is the First Lady of the kingdom that Jesus Christ lived, taught, died and rose from the dead to establish.⁴⁸¹

*November 10, 2000 Janie: While I was in prayer, Our Lady came as the Lady of All Nations.*⁴⁸²

Mary is Queen of the Kingdom of which Christ is King.⁴⁸³

O Mary...You are...the Queen of the Kingdom...⁴⁸⁴

For it is Mary of Nazareth, who becomes the Queen and Mother in the Kingdom of God, as the Mother of Christ, King of All Nations.⁴⁸⁵

The vision of Mary crowned with twelve stars reveals Mary as the queen of the kingdom of God!⁴⁸⁶

It is distressing that any would wish to tie Jesus' mother Mary in with the "lady of kingdom" as the Bible warns that "the lady of the kingdoms" will be destroyed.

It should be understood that certain Catholic scholars, going as far back as the Catholic saint Hippolytus and Bishop Victorinus in the third century, have stated that the woman in Revelation 12:1-2 (the woman with the 12 stars) is something other than Mary (like the church).⁴⁸⁷ Catholic priests and scholars have written, "This is properly and principally speaking of the Church"⁴⁸⁸ or "God's Old Testament people"⁴⁸⁹ and "The woman of chapter 12 is not the Blessed Virgin Mary."⁴⁹⁰ Furthermore, those who claim that the woman with twelve stars in Revelation 12:1-2 is Mary should realize that Revelation 12:2 says that this

particular woman gave birth “in pain,” which contradicts a position of several Catholic saints that Mary gave birth to Jesus without pain.⁴⁹¹

It may be of interest to note that just like the Fatima apparition, the “Lady of the Nations” that Ida Peerdeman saw did not seem to directly claim to be Mary either:

Ida asks: “Are you Mary?”

The figure smiles at her and answers,

“They will call me the *Lady... Mother*.”⁴⁹²

Also, at first from the Catholic Church, “Ida is told to keep quiet. She has been regarded as hysteric for decades, not only by ecclesiastical circles... Even the Catholic press demonized Ida and her Apparition.”⁴⁹³ But later, this attitude changes (apparently partially because of an enchantment/miracle involving clothes not getting soot on them during a fire in October 4, 1977⁴⁹⁴) and a form of Vatican approval is granted in 2002 (and it apparently had some other approval in 1996).⁴⁹⁵ Interestingly, according to Catholic writer Robert Conte, Ida’s Amsterdam visions were false, and “The miraculous weeping statue of Our Lady of Akita is based on the image from the private revelations of the Lady of All Nations at Amsterdam.”⁴⁹⁶

Lúcia wrote that some of the people considered her to be a “sorceress.”⁴⁹⁷ The Bible (Isaiah 47:9, 12) clearly shows that sorceries and enchantments are related to the “lady of kingdoms” (vs. 5), thus if the Lady in Fatima is somehow related to “the lady of kingdoms,” this confirms the view of early Fatima investigators such as Priest Manuel Marques Ferreira⁴⁹⁸ who felt that the Lady appearing in Fatima to the three children was the devil or related to him.

Since both Lúcia and her parish priest initially concluded that the apparition was probably the devil, Lúcia should not have changed her view. The “Lady” Lúcia saw seems related to the one warned against in Isaiah 47.

I cannot help but feel that perhaps the apparition that appeared at Fatima in 1917 may have only had permission to appear in a short skirt and not claim to be Mary from God (cf. Job 1:9-12; 2:4-6; 3 Kingdoms 22:20-22 DRB; 1 Kings 22:20-22 NKJV) in order that those who were interested in the truth would realize that it really could not have been Mary of the Bible who appeared then. This is despite the “miracle of the sun” (of which there were enough differing explanations⁴⁹⁹ that I believe that Satan’s influence in even that was restrained). I also believe that this is why certain other apparitions have been recorded to make statements that are false (e.g. Medjugorje⁵⁰⁰), appeared as a goddess (e.g. Guadalupe⁵⁰¹), did not claim to be Mary (e.g. La Salette⁵⁰²), and/or only appeared to one or few persons – God has had Satan’s power restrained.

Yet, the time is coming when future apparitions may not have such restrictions (cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:7), which may be why almost all will be deceived according to Jesus (Matthew 24:24; Mark 13:22). But God still has a way for His faithful to escape (1 Corinthians 10:13, NKJV) the deception.

For those that have a “love of the truth” (2 Thessalonians 2:10), “You can trust that God...with any trial will also provide a way out” (1 Corinthians 10:13, NJB). Despite credibility problems of any human being, the word of God is the credible source that all past and future apparitions, signs, and wonders should be judged by (cf. Jeremiah 23:28; Revelation 20:12; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16).

The Lady Contradicted Scripture

Between the first and third appearances of the Lady of Fatima, many sick and afflicted people wanted to make requests of her. So they told the three children their requests.

Since Lúcia was the only one of the three who spoke to the Lady, she tried to pass on many of those requests. But, notice what Lúcia wrote about what the Lady said regarding the requests from those people during her July 13, 1917 appearance:

Our Lady said it was necessary for such people to pray the Rosary in order to attain these graces during the year.⁵⁰³

But this is against scripture.

Notice what the Bible says that the sick or afflicted are to do:

13 Any one of you who is in trouble should pray; anyone in good spirits should sing a psalm.

14 Any one of you who is ill should send for the elders of the church, and they must anoint the sick person with oil in the name of the Lord and pray over him.

15 The prayer of faith will save the sick person and the Lord will raise him up again; and if he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven. (James 5:13-15, NJB)

Saying that the only way people would get their requests possibly answered by “praying the Rosary” is blasphemous as God Himself had recorded how such requests were to be handled, and those instructions differ from what the Lady stated.

I am not arguing against prayer, yet no serious believer of the Bible should conclude that Mary, the mother of Jesus, would contradict sacred scripture.

Jesus Did Not Exalt His Mother

While Jesus loved His mother, and even had her taken care of while He was suffering crucifixion (John 19:26-27), He did not exalt her, call her queen of anything, nor do anything to encourage her veneration.

Many who excessively honor Mary fail to realize that they are not following Jesus' example on this. Jesus honored His mother and obeyed His human parents (Luke 2:51), yet on at least two occasions Jesus made it clear that Mary was not to be overly honored.

Notice what happened when Jesus' mother showed up when He was speaking:

46 As he was yet speaking to the multitudes, behold his mother and his brethren stood without, seeking to speak to him. 47 And one said unto him: Behold thy mother and thy brethren stand without, seeking thee. 48 But he answering him that told him, said: Who is my mother, and who are my brethren? 49 And stretching forth his hand towards his disciples, he said: Behold my mother and my brethren. 50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father that is in heaven he is my brother, and sister, and mother. (Matthew 12:46-50, DRB)

Thus, Jesus was clearly not exalting His mother above other believers. And that is the example that faithful Christians should follow.

Additionally, notice what happened when a woman wanted to highly praise His mother:

27 And it came to pass, as he spoke these things, a certain woman from the crowd, lifting up her voice, said to him: Blessed is the womb that bore thee, and the paps that gave thee suck. 28 But he said: Yea rather, blessed are they who hear the word of God, and keep it. (Luke 11:27-28, DRB)

27 It happened that as he was speaking, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said, 'Blessed the womb that bore you and the breasts that fed you!' 28 But he replied, 'More blessed still are those who hear the word of God and keep it!' (Luke 11:27-28, NJB)

Essentially, Jesus was saying that being His mother was not as blessed as actually being one who hears "the word of God and keep it!" Notice that two Catholic translations of the passage in Luke show this to be so.

The Holy Bible clearly shows that Jesus did not exalt His mother when others attempted to do. No "private revelation" should be allowed to be in conflict with Jesus' recorded position here.

The Lady of the Kingdoms is not Mary nor would Mary wish to be her.

11. IS AN ANTIPOPE NOW IN WAITING?

Prophecies from sacred scripture and Catholic sources indicate that an antipope will rise up and become the final Antichrist. The vast amount of those prophecies, plus when they may be likely to be fulfilled, may be a shock to some Catholics.

Some Eastern Orthodox expect the Vatican to compromise in order to have closer unity with them. A compromised faith that will call itself Catholic is a concern of both biblical literalists as well as many traditional Catholics.

Various Fatimists, like Priest Paul Kramer,⁵⁰⁴ believe that an antipope is expected. While that may or may not be part of any possible unrevealed third secret that belief is consistent with some of what the Bible teaches as well as certain Catholic private prophecies.

“Great Monarch” Expected

Some Catholic private prophecies tell of a leader (commonly referred to as the “Great Monarch,” though biblically he resembles the final King of the North) who will establish a new religious order and militarily conquer the English and the Muslims (which is consistent with warnings in Daniel 11:39-43).⁵⁰⁵

There some private prophecies⁵⁰⁶ that suggest that some of the clergy will be offended by this Great Monarch leader — it would seem that this should be a clue to Catholics that this leader is an apostate. This leader seems to rise up after a period of civil unrest and/or civil war involving parts of the European continent perhaps with wonders like Marian apparitions.

The following private prophecies may also be related:

Priest Laurence Ricci, S.J. (died 1775): **This great ruler...will**, with the aid of the Pope, **introduce new rules...**Everywhere there will be one fold and one shepherd.⁵⁰⁷

Cyril the Hermit (14th century): A German ruler will persecute priests and monks and do much harm to the Church.⁵⁰⁸

Francis of Paula (15th century): He shall be the founder of a new religious order different from all others.⁵⁰⁹

Sister Rose Asdenti of Taggai (1847): During a frightful storm against the Church, all religious orders shall be abolished, except two.⁵¹⁰

Franciscan Friar (18th century): All the religious orders will be suppressed, except one, the rule of which will be as rigid and severe as that of the monks...the most powerful anarchy will prevail within the Church.⁵¹¹

Joseph Goires (d. 1848): The people will be united under a powerful monarch who will make new laws and banish corruption from the earth.⁵¹²

Gameleo (possibly 16th century): **The Great Lion will arise** when the Holy See has been moved to Mentz, and a Sabinian elected Pope. **There will have been much dissension among the cardinals.**⁵¹³

Priest Ricci talks about “new rules” with the “aid of a pope,” while Gameleo indicates that some cardinals

are offended by something during the time of the “Great Lion” (another term for the Great Monarch). This could be because the “King of the North” will work with the antipope to make the world apparently nominally “Catholic” (it will be a changed, more ecumenical form, probably using the name Catholic, at least for a while). This leader will seem good to many, but he has diabolical plans (Daniel 11:21-14, 27, 31-39). His religious order, apparently, will at first be an additional one. Then over time it will eliminate many others.

A new religious order claiming to be “Catholic” seems to fit into Daniel’s statement of “a god whom his fathers knew not” (Daniel 11:37) – and this “new order” something that certain private prophecies suggest is coming. And the idea of a future King of the North has long been taught by Catholic saints such as Jerome⁵¹⁴ and Catholic mystics like the Capuchin Friar of 1776.⁵¹⁵

An Antipope Is Prophesied to Implement a New Order

Furthermore, many Catholic writings suggest that it is an *antipope* who may be involved in the imposition of a changed and more ecumenical “new” church:

Oba Prophecy: It will come when the Church authorities issue directives to support a new cult, when priests are forbidden to celebrate in any other, when the highest positions in the Church are given to perjurers and hypocrites, when only the renegades are admitted to occupy those positions.⁵¹⁶

Nun Anna-Katarina Emmerick (c. 1820): I saw again a new and odd-looking Church which they were trying to build. There was nothing holy about it... THIS IS BABEL.⁵¹⁷

Anne Catherine Emmerich (April 22, 1823): I saw that many pastors allowed themselves to be taken up with ideas that were dangerous to the Church. They were building a great, strange, and extravagant Church. Everyone was admitted in it in order to be united and to have equal rights: Evangelicals, Catholics, sects of every description. Such was to be the new Church...⁵¹⁸

Anne Catherine Emmerich (January 12, 1820): There is now some question of Protestants sharing in the government of the Catholic clergy.⁵¹⁹

Anne Catherine Emmerich (July 1820): I came to the church of Peter and Paul (Rome) and saw a dark world of distress, confusion, and corruption...⁵²⁰

Anne Catherine Emmerich (October 22, 1822): I saw in Germany among the worldly-wise ecclesiastics, and enlightened Protestants, plans formed for the blending of all religious creeds...⁵²¹

Melanie Mathieu (19th century): Rome will lose faith and become the seat of Antichrist.⁵²²

Jeanne le Royer (died 1978): I see that when the Second Coming of Christ approaches a bad priest will do much harm to the Church.⁵²³

Yves Dupont (reader and reporter of Catholic prophecies): prophecies are quite explicit about **the election of an anti-pope**...Many prophecies predict an anti-pope and a schism.⁵²⁴

Blessed Joachim (died 1202): Towards the end of the world Antichrist will overthrow the Pope and usurp his See.⁵²⁵

Blessed Anna-Maria Taigi (19th century): After the three days of darkness...a new Pope...Christianity, then, will spread throughout the world...At the end, he will have the gift of miracles, and his name shall be praised over the whole earth.⁵²⁶

C. Van Den Biesen (20th century): The beast from the land has two horns like a ram. Its power lies in its art of deceiving by means of tokens and miracles. Throughout the remainder of the book it is called the false prophet. Its office is to assist the beast from the sea, and to induce men to adore its image.⁵²⁷

Priest O'Connor (20th century?): **This final false prophet will be a bishop of the church and will lead all religions into becoming one.**⁵²⁸

Merlin (7th century): There will come a German Anti-Pope. Italy and Germany will be sorely troubled.⁵²⁹

Saint Hildegard (died 1179): ...the Church...*from her waist to the place that denotes the female, she has various scaly blemishes...And...is recognized is a black and monstrous head.* For the son of perdition will come raging with the arts he first used to seduce...causing people to deny...⁵³⁰

Comment by Barbara Newman (1998): Hildegard shockingly portrayed Ecclesia {the Catholic Church} as giving birth to Antichrist himself.⁵³¹

Abbott Joachim (died 1202): A man of remarkable sanctity will be his successor in the Pontifical chair. Through him God will work so many prodigies that all men shall revere him.⁵³²

Saint Zenobius (died 285): Antichrist will work a thousand prodigies on earth.⁵³³

Saint Hildegard (died 1179): When the great ruler exterminates the Turks almost entirely... {a} cardinal will proclaim himself Anti-Pope, and two thirds of the Christians will go with him.⁵³⁴

Pope Gregory the Great (died 604): In those days, near the end, hardly a Bishop, but an army of priests and two-thirds of the Christians will join the Schism.⁵³⁵

Ted and Maureen Flynn (20th century): Catholic prophecy warns us of severe problems facing the papacy in these end times...An Antipope will seize papal authority...those who hold fast to the truths of the faith who will be labeled as the perpetrators of this horrible schism, according to some visionaries.⁵³⁶

St. Francis of Assisi (died 1226): There will be an uncanonically-elected pope who will cause a great Schism.⁵³⁷

Capuchin Friar (18th century): During these calamities the Pope shall die...three popes shall be simultaneously elected...the third...by force of arms, shall be placed on the throne.⁵³⁸

Priest E. Sylvester Berry (published 1920): It has been a matter of history that the most disastrous periods for the Church were times when the Papal throne was vacant or when anti-popes contended with the legitimate head of the Church. Thus shall it be in those evil days to come.⁵³⁹

Catholic writer and priest P. Huchedé (19th century): ...the false prophet...will not be a king, nor a general of an army, but a clever apostate, fallen from episcopal dignity.⁵⁴⁰

Catholic priest and writer R. Gerald Culleton (20th century): A schism of short duration is destined to break out...An antipope, of German origin, is to be set up, and finally Rome itself will be destroyed".⁵⁴¹

Frederick William Faber (died 1863): Antichrist... Many believe in a demonical incarnation–this will not be so–but he will be utterly possessed...His doctrine as apparent contradiction of no religion, yet a new religion...He has an attending pontiff, so separating regal and prophetic office.⁵⁴²

Priest Herman Kramer (20th century): In the vision of the Seer now appears a second beast rising out of the earth, having two horns like a lamb but speaking like a dragon...In other places he is called the false prophet...This prophet may re-establish the pagan Roman Empire and build the "Great Harlot", Babylon... The False Prophet...will persuade all infidels, apostates and apostate nations to worship and adore him...Antichrist "sitteth in the temple of God"...this temple is shown to be a Catholic Church...The False Prophet will proclaim the resurrection of the Roman Empire.⁵⁴³

Priest Herman Kramer (20th century): In accord with the text this is unmistakably a PAPAL ELECTION . . . But at this time the great powers may take a menacing attitude to hinder the election of the logical and expected candidate by threats of a general apostasy, assassination or imprisonment of this candidate if elected. This would suppose

an extremely hostile mind in the governments of Europe towards the Church...A general council may decree the reforms...The lax clergy at the time will extol the conditions then existing... They will try to make the Church a “state church” everywhere.⁵⁴⁴

D. Lindsey: The prophetic writings of the great Italian mystic, Maria *Valtorta*...*said* that the Antichrist will be...an elect leader...Another very credible mystic and stigmatic now living in County Mayo, Ireland, *Christina Gallagher*, has had visions of the Antichrist wearing a bishop’s miter and *Satan smashing* the chair of St. Peter, which, to me, seems to indicate that a future Pope will be the Antichrist.⁵⁴⁵

Catholic author and collector of prophecies D. Birch (20th century): Many, many, of the prophecies refer to an Antipope for some time in the future during which great calamities occur to the Church.⁵⁴⁶

Whether this “miracle-performing” antipope will be of German (seemingly including Swiss or Austrian) origin is not clear from the Bible, though several private prophecies (which do not have to be believed) suggest that. And whether or not he is properly elected is also debatable—but even if he is elected as other pontiffs, he should not be listened to when he urges anything contrary to the faith as defined in sacred scripture.

Even though some Catholic prophecies seem to look forward to a new religious order, others show it will clearly

be a false religion. This also seems to be consistent with an Orthodox understanding of the last false religious power coming from Rome:

Bishop Gerasimos of Abydos (20th century): The army of Antichrist is made up of the worldly powers, mainly the Roman Empire, symbolized by the two beasts and the harlot woman (Rev. 11:7; 13:1-17; cf. Dan. 7:11-12)... The final confrontation with evil is presented in chapters 19 and 20... The war is waged by the beast and the false prophet. **Both of these are organs of Satan, representing the political and religious authority of Rome** (Rev. 13:1-18).⁵⁴⁷

Whatever new order that the Great Monarch (who is to be crowned the leader of the Roman Empire according to other writings⁵⁴⁸) implements with Rome will not be faithful to the teachings of Christ or His original faithful followers.

Therefore it seems that a “false pope” is expected, and a great loss of Catholic members to his religion is prophesied.

Also notice the following related to the two-horned beast in Revelation 13 as well as the “lying wonders”:

Priest E. Sylvester Berry (published 1920): The beast rising out of the earth in the false prophet... The two horns denote a twofold authority – spiritual and temporal. As indicated by the resemblance to a lamb, the prophet will probably set himself up in Rome as a sort of anti-pope... Antichrist will establish himself in Jerusalem... with his ‘lying wonders’ ...⁵⁴⁹

The idea that there will be lying wonders involving an antipope is clearly in the Catholic literature. And as that is consistent with sacred scripture, it appears that it is highly possible that an ecumenical compromising antipope who performs great signs (Revelation 13:11-14) and is involved with lying wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9) will be the clinching factor for the coming ecumenical unity that the Bible, Church of God writers, and other theological writers have long warned about.

The Orthodox Expect Doctrinal Compromise

While the Bible teaches, “grow in grace, and in the knowledge” (2 Peter 3:18, DRB), it does not encourage doctrinal compromise from scripture for the sake of unity.

Many have suggested that Vatican II (a major Catholic ecumenical council that ran from 1962–1965) contradicted Vatican I, while the current Pope (while a Cardinal) called Vatican II a “counter-syllabus” to Vatican I (which supposedly was an “infallible papal” pronouncement of Pope Pius IX).⁵⁵⁰ Since Vatican II, many Catholics have been concerned that doctrinal compromise for the sake of ecumenical unity with those outside of fellowship of Rome may be inevitable.

The Eastern Orthodox Church has long taught that the Church of Rome (known sometimes as *the Latins* in their writings) will change doctrines to those of the Orthodox. A document known as the *Anonymou Prophecy* of 1053 refers to this as the “Deferring of the Latins to the error-free faith of the Orthodox.”⁵⁵¹

Thus, many among the Eastern Orthodox expect Rome to change its doctrines.

Notice that according to another Byzantine prophet, the final (the Orthodox recognize seven previous ones) ecumenical council satisfies what “heretics” want:

Saint Nelios the Myrrh-Gusher (died 1592): During that time the Eighth and last Ecumenical Synod will take place, which will satisfy the contentions of the heretics...⁵⁵²

By satisfying “heretics,” clearly this council compromises and changes the religion, which will be called “Catholic.” Unless ALL the changes agree with sacred scripture, why would any Catholic want to support a council that satisfies heretics? The Bible warns about a leader who “he shall think himself able to change times and laws” (Daniel 7:25, DRB). The Catholic saint Jerome wrote that this leader was the King of the North.⁵⁵³ (The Beast/King of the North is primarily a political-military leader who will persecute the saints, per Daniel 11:30-35, while the final Antichrist is primarily a religious leader per 1 John 4:1-3 who will support that Beast per Revelation 13:12.)

Consider if an antipope convened/attended an ecumenical synod that satisfied heretics, would he not also be supportive of changing laws? All people, whether they profess Christ or not, need to take heed and NOT support the coming ecumenical unity even if it is supported by signs and apparent miracles (2 Thessalonians 2:7-12). Despite denials by many who now oppose ecumenical unity, the Bible warns that nearly all, however, will end up being deceived (Mark 13:22; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12; Revelation 13:1-4,8).

Only the elect, those who truly will “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7) and who received “the love of the truth” (2 Thessalonians 2:10) will not fall for this (Matthew 24:24).

Interestingly, a Catholic prophecy shows that after its church is changed, the Orthodox (called *the Greeks* below) will come back:

Roger Bacon (died 1294): There shall arise a... priest to reform the Church. The Greeks will return (to the Church)...there will be one fold, one shepherd.⁵⁵⁴

When my wife and I were at the offices of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople in May 2008, we were specifically told by one from the Patriarch's staff that the Vatican already offered significant doctrinal compromise for unity with the Orthodox. More compromise is expected.

All (Catholic or otherwise) should be careful, compare their teachings with the Bible, pray to God, and not accept doctrines that are unbiblical for the sake of this coming ecumenical unity.

Is the Next Pope the Antipope?

Near the middle of the 12th century, an Irish Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, named Malachy, claimed to have a vision where he listed some comment about every future pope from then to the last one. A complete list of each of the popes (including *several* of the antipopes) through John Paul II (number 110 on that list, 264 counted including earlier pontiffs) is included in a Catholic approved (contains an Imprimatur from a bishop) prophecy book from the 20th century.⁵⁵⁵

The Catholic Encyclopedia teaches:

In 1139...St. Malachy gave his manuscript to Innocent II to console him in the midst of his tribulations...These short prophetic announcements, in number 112, indicate some noticeable trait of **all future popes from Celestine II, who was elected in the year 1143, until the end of the world.**⁵⁵⁶

Here are some additional Catholic comments about *Malachy's* list (Note: J.J. Dietzen believes that the list is an "elaborate" forgery,⁵⁵⁷ but his comments are still of interest):

Y. Dupont: St. Malachy...has given fitting descriptions of every pope since the 16th century, when it was discovered.⁵⁵⁸

Priest Connor: [W]hen Malachy visited Pope Innocent II in Rome in 1139, he was given a vision of all the Holy Fathers of the future...**A study of the entire prophecy shows that fulfillment is made possible only by including anti-popes...**⁵⁵⁹

P. Bander: ...the vast majority of Malachy's predictions about successive Popes is amazingly accurate...⁵⁶⁰

E. Culligan: St. Malachy named all the popes from the year 1130 to the end of time...On St. Malachy's 1966 schedule we will only have four more popes to follow Paul.⁵⁶¹

J.J. Dietzen: According to the alleged predictions, *only two popes* remain after the present one {John-Paul II}, ending with Petrus Romanus (Peter of Rome) who is to preside over the destruction of Rome and the end of the present age.⁵⁶²

D. Lindsey: After the 266th pope, according to St. Malachy, there will be no more popes. In addition to being the last pontiff, some visionaries hint that the 266th pontiff will be the Antichrist.⁵⁶³

Malachy's list confusingly includes several leaders that the Roman Catholics identify as antipopes (e.g. Clement VII, Benedict XIII, etc.⁵⁶⁴); hence having another is consistent with his writings.

Yet, since "God is not the author of confusion/dissension" (1 Corinthians 14:33, NKJV/DRB) while the Malachy list has a certain accuracy, it would appear that its origins are not truly divine. But the list is still of interest.

The second to the last pope on the Malachy list is the current Pope Benedict XVI (number 111 on the Malachy list). Notice the following from the 19th century:

Priest Gaudentius Rossi (1873): According to St. Malachy, then, only ten, or at most eleven, popes remain to be in future more or less legitimately elected. We say more or less legitimately elected, because out of those future popes it is to be feared that one or two will be unlawfully elected as anti-popes.⁵⁶⁵

There has not been a recognized antipope since 1449.⁵⁶⁶ In Revelation 17:9-18, the Bible also foretells of the time of the end of the City of Seven Hills/Mountains (NJB/New Living Translation/DRB). The "great harlot...woman which thou sawest, is the great city, which hath kingdom over the kings of the earth" (Revelation 17:18, DRB). Many Catholic scholars recognize that the seven hills in Revelation 17 are referring to Rome.⁵⁶⁷

So, if Malachy's list is accurate (and it is complete) AND Catholic private prophecies about an antipope coming are true, then Pope Francis would be an antipope (though some have claimed, and likely will claim, that the Malachy list allows for other popes between the current one and the last one and that during his reign Rome will be destroyed).

But Might Some Misidentify Who is the Faithful?

Priest Paul Kramer wrote:

The counterfeit “Catholic” Church — the counter-church, the anti-church — the mystery of the dragon, whose tail swept down a third of the “stars of Heaven,” i.e. one third of the Catholic hierarchy under the leadership of a heretical antipope.⁵⁶⁸

Now the reality, as Priest Kramer seems to know, is that most Catholics will accept the final Antichrist even if he is an antipope.

But his comments are intriguing for another reason. During 3 ½ years of the reign of the final Antichrist, God will have His two witnesses preaching (Revelation 11:3). It may be that an inadvertent result of the Fatimist message is that the Antichrist will point to writings like Priest Kramer’s as proof that the message proclaimed by God’s two witnesses is that of a counterfeit “catholic” Church as opposed to that of the original Church of God.

And when the two witnesses are doing their job, it is likely that demonic apparitions will somehow tell the world to fight against them because they are causing the “Great Apostasy.” They and the two Beasts will somewhat mimic some of the miracles (Revelation 13:11-14) that God shows His two witnesses will be able to do (Revelation 11:3-6).

Since the last two popes have emphasized Fatima, it is likely that the next one will as well and that apparitions will be pointed to as proof that the Beast and False Prophet are on God’s side, instead of explaining that they will be in lockstep with Satan the devil.

12. ANOTHER SHOCK: FATIMA, ISLAM, GODDESSES, AND EASTERN FAITHS

Both Fatima, the daughter of Muhammad, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are important to Islam. Various non-Christian writings suggest that female apparitions could be factors in the coming ecumenical unity. Goddess worship has existed throughout history and has a large following in the 21st century. Christians should avoid the appearance of evil and not engage in actual or perceived goddess worship.

Islam and various Eastern faiths may be influenced because of Fatima and future apparitions.

Islam's prophet was claimed to have made some very positive statements about Mary:

Prophet Muhammad Ali Ibn Abi Talib narrated that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

"The best of the world's women is Mary (in her lifetime), and the best of the world's women is Khadija (in her lifetime)." (Sahih Al-Bukhari)⁵⁶⁹

Abu Musa Al-Ashari also narrated that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

"Many among men reached to the position of perfection. But it is only three women who acquired this perfection: Mary the daughter of Imran..."⁵⁷⁰

Many in the West are unaware that Muhammad's first and most beloved daughter was Fatima, who he connected with Mary. After she died, Muhammad apparently said, "Thou shalt be the most blessed of all women in Paradise, after Mary."⁵⁷¹

It should be noted that prior to the apparition in Fatima, Islam called Fatima the Virgin Fatima. A 1906 report states:

The virginity of Fatima is a dogma of Islam.⁵⁷²

Furthermore, notice additional claims about the woman Fatima:

Fatima will enter paradise next to Mahomet: The Mussulmans call her the Lady of Paradise. Some Shiites (followers of Ali) maintain that Fatima was nonetheless a virgin for becoming a mother, and that God was incarnate in her children.⁵⁷³

Perhaps it should be added that many Catholics believe that Mary was taken up into heaven and the Muslims believe that Fatima was taken up into heaven.⁵⁷⁴ Fatima, like Mary, was also believed to have been a widow. Fatima, herself, was born around 604. Shi'ite Muslims traditions tremendously exalt her, while Sunni tradition, though acknowledging her importance, "characterizes her as often impatient and ungrateful."⁵⁷⁵

The Portuguese town of Fatima itself was named after a Muslim princess, Fatima Zahra. Fatima Zahra converted to the Catholic faith in the 12th century and married a knight named Don Gonçalo. Upon Catholic baptism she took the name Oureana.⁵⁷⁶

Related to Muhammed's daughter, Ergun Mehmet Caner noted that "the depth of reverence shown for Fatima compares with that shown to the Virgin Mary by the

Roman Catholics.”⁵⁷⁷ He also noted that Muslim females are encouraged to model their lives after Fatima’s⁵⁷⁸ which happens to be similar to what a lot of Catholic females are encouraged to do in following Mary. Many Muslim females have been named Fatima. “Fatima signifies ‘mistress’ or ‘lady’ in Arabic.”⁵⁷⁹

History records that some Muslims have worn an amulet called the “hand of Fatima.” Essentially it is considered to be a charm to protect against evil. Here is one, over a century old, report about it amongst the Arabs:

Fatima...was ...one of the four perfect women...
the hand of Fatima was everywhere regarded as
a charm, used in every conceivable way, from its
impress on the door of the humblest house to the
jeweled charm worn round the neck of the rich
bride.⁵⁸⁰

Mary, mother of Jesus, was also in the list of “the perfect women” according to Islam.⁵⁸¹ The wearing of the “hand of Fatima” amulet around the neck by some Muslims and the rosary around the neck by some Catholics also suggests closer similarities than one might otherwise suspect.

Islam, the Lady of Fatima, and Mary in the Qur’an

Interestingly, Archbishop Fulton Sheen wrote:

It is our firm belief that...Islam...will be converted
to Christianity...It is our belief that this will not
happen through direct teaching of Christianity,
but through a summoning of the Muslims to a
veneration of the Mother of God.⁵⁸²

He also wrote he believed that the apparition:

...chose to be known as "Our Lady of Fatima" as a pledge and sign of hope for the Muslim people... so that they one day would accept...⁵⁸³

Thus, Archbishop Sheen essentially thought that the appearance in Fatima was to also ultimately result in Muslims (and possibly Hindus) accepting his faith. Notice that he also wrote:

Our missionaries report the most extraordinary reaction of these peoples as the Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima was carried through the East. At the edge of Nepal, three hundred Catholics were joined by three thousand Hindus and Moslems, as four elephants carried the statue to the little church for Rosary and Benediction... The final evidence of the relationship of the village of *Fatima* to the *Moslems* is the enthusiastic reception that the *Moslems in Africa* and India and elsewhere gave to the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of *Fatima*... *in Mozambique the Moslems, who were unconverted, became Christians as soon as the statue of Our Lady of Fatima was erected*...

Missionaries in the future will, more and more, see that their apostolate among the Moslems will be successful in the measure they preach Our Lady of Fatima.⁵⁸⁴

(More on the statues is included in the Appendix.)

On December 27, 1983, Ali Ağca referred to Muhammad's daughter as the goddess of the Fatima apparitions.⁵⁸⁵

It seems that apparitions could be a factor in temporarily getting Muslims to consider that there is more to Catholicism

than most of them have thought. Archbishop Sheen felt that a Marian “miracle” would be a factor in Muslims and others together and become end time Catholics in the Day of Wrath (*Dies Irae*):

And as Mary revealed herself in that first Miracle of the Sun, so may we look forward to another revelation of her power when the world has its next rehearsal for the *Dies Irae*.⁵⁸⁶

Also notice something from Vatican II:

Moslems...They also honor Mary, His virgin Mother; at times they even call on her with devotion.⁵⁸⁷

Chapter 19 of the Qur'an/Koran/Quran is, from an Islamic perspective, devoted to Mary and Jesus (“Mary” is also spelled Maryam, Marium, or Miriam in Arabic translations into English). Here are a few passages from it:

019.020 Y: She said: “How shall I have a son, seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?”...

019.027...S: And she came to her people with him, carrying him (with her). They said: O Marium! Surely you have done a strange thing.

019.028 Y: “O sister of Aaron! Thy father was not a man of evil, nor thy mother a woman unchaste!”⁵⁸⁸

066.012 Y: And Mary the daughter of ‘Imran, who guarded her chastity; and We breathed into (her body) of Our spirit; and she testified to the truth of

the words of her Lord and of His Revelations, and was one of the devout (servants).⁵⁸⁹

While the above supports the virgin birth of Jesus, some also seem to believe that the Qur'an is supportive of teaching the "immaculate" conception of Mary in Islam.⁵⁹⁰ So, there are Islamic ties to Mary that resemble those in post-sixth century Catholicism.

Marian Interest and Her Claimed Final House in Turkey

A house where Mary may have lived out her last days is in Turkey. My wife Joyce and I have visited it. It is on the outskirts of ancient Ephesus.



"Mary's House" near Ephesus – Lighter, Upper, Portion Added

There is an annual celebration for Mary, in the area near Ephesus, which Islamic Turks put on and participate in. Because of Islamic fascination with Mary, it is possible that an apparition claiming to be Mary might appear in Turkey and/or elsewhere. This may partially persuade some Muslims to temporarily consider that somehow God

might be working through a Western religious leader. This will not last for all (Daniel 11:27; 40), but it seems to have been part of Catholic prophecy:

Blessed Maria of Agreda (died 1665): The power of Mary in the latter days will be very conspicuous. Mary will extend the reign of Christ over the heathens and the Mohammedans...⁵⁹¹

Perhaps it should be mentioned that there are certain Catholic prophecies that suggest many Muslims in Turkey will somewhat accept the Catholic faith. Here is one:

Brother Louis Rocco (19th century): Terrible wars will rage all over Europe...Great cities and small towns alike will be destroyed in a bloody revolution...In Istanbul (Constantinople) the Cross will replace the half-moon of Islamism, and Jerusalem will be the seat of a King. The southern Slavs will form a great Catholic Empire and drive out of Europe the Turks (Mohammedans), who will withdraw to North Africa and subsequently embrace the Catholic faith.⁵⁹²

Many people of all persuasions, including apparently atheists, are going to fall away from their current beliefs in vast numbers (even according to many Catholic leaders) to embrace one who will promote a powerful ecumenical religion that is to be accompanied by what will appear to be real miracles.

Perhaps more shocking is that there is a 17th century Islamic prophecy from a Dervish (Dervishes are mainly based in Turkey) that suggests that because many are not good Muslims, they will accept a faith that claims Christ after seeing something that resembles a female apparition,

that some suspect will be considered to be “Mary.”⁵⁹³ Hence, at least one Islamic prophecy seems to support the view that many Muslims (especially in Turkey) may accept the coming ecumenical religion promoted by a “Marian” apparition.

But, a small Christian group will not be deceived, even by those or other wonders:

24 For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch as to deceive (if possible) even the elect. (Matthew 24:24, DRB)

The “elect” that Jesus spoke of will not accept the false Marian apparitions of Fatima or any future ones. But apparently future wonders will be so persuasive that all but these “elect” will fall for them.

Islamic Interest in Fatima, Portugal

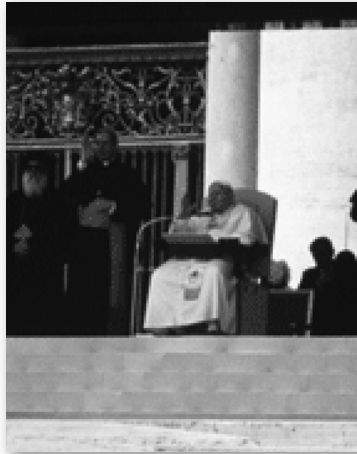
In the 21st century, Giuseppe De Carli wrote the following related to Islam and Fatima:

The Shiites believe that the Fatima shrine belongs, by right, to Muslims, and that Catholics have stolen it from their rightful owners. They argue that if a Lady dressed in shining white appeared there, then it's because she had a message for the Muslims, not for Christians. Ali Ağca, in his megalomania thought he had a mission from God. Apparently, when John Paul II visited him at the Rebibbia prison in 1983, he asked the pontiff, “So who is Fatima for you?” Twice now I have done on-the-scene reporting from Fatima and I have spotted Arabs who seemed to

want to remain incognito...Fatima has a religious and political significance.⁵⁹⁴



*Pope John Paul II
Fatima (2011)*



*Pope John Paul II
Vatican City (2004)*

So, some Muslims, at least, believe that the messages for Fatima were apparently different than those publicly revealed, that Fatima is for them, and any message for Fatima has to do with Islam.

Notice also from Priest L.J. Cizik:

It is a fact that Moslems from various nations, especially from the Middle East, make so many pilgrimages to Our Lady of Fatima's Shrine in Portugal that Portuguese officials have expressed concern. The combination of an Islamic name and Islamic devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is a great attraction to Moslems.⁵⁹⁵

It would not surprise me if one or more future Lady apparitions shows herself to Muslims and encourages them to support the ecumenical religion that the Europeans will themselves embrace in much greater numbers in very few years.

Notice the following from the *Encyclopedia of Islam*:

Fatima is greatly revered by Muslims...Moreover, she will be the first to enter PARADISE...and like MARY in Catholic Christianity, she will intercede for those who honor her...Indeed, in Shii literature, Fatima is compared to Mary the mother of JESUS because of the violent deaths suffered by each of their sons.⁵⁹⁶

So, there are similarities (as well as differences) between Catholic and Islamic beliefs related to Mary and Fatima.

A series of apparitions occurred at a Coptic Orthodox church in Zeitoun, Egypt, from 1968 to 1973 and:

Moslems, Copts, Roman Catholics, Protestants, and others were overwhelmed by the Lady who seemed to be composed of light. Moslems chanted from the Koran: "Mary, God has chosen thee. And purified thee; He has chosen thee above all women."⁵⁹⁷

So, some Muslims have already been impressed by apparitions of the Lady, and may once again.

Hindu Involvement

Archbishop Sheen also wrote:

At Patna, the Brahman Hindu governor of the province visited the church and prayed before the statue of Our Lady. In one tiny village of Kesra

Mec, more than twenty-four thousand people came to see the statue.⁵⁹⁸

But, that is not an isolated incident. Notice the following account of a group of Hindus who visited Cova da Iria in 2004:

Hindus...were allowed to conduct a pagan prayer chant at the altar in the sanctuary of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions...on May 5, 2004...a national television station in Portugal broadcast that a group of Hindus from Lisbon was allowed to commandeer the Shrine for a pagan prayer chant, with the Hindu “priest” standing at the Catholic altar invoking false gods in the causes of peace, while the Hindu congregation in the Little Chapel responded with a chant. This is a desecration...since Sacred Scripture teaches “the gods of the Gentiles are devils” (*Psalms* 95:5)⁵⁹⁹

This Hindu ceremony, as expected, upset some Catholics.⁶⁰⁰ (Note that Psalm 95:5 in the DRB is Psalm 96:5 in the NJB/NKJV which use the word “idols” instead of “devils.”)

Eastern Signs and Faiths

While “Mary” is known throughout the Middle East and West, she is less known, though revered by some like a goddess, in Eastern religions:

Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and other pilgrims regularly worship at famous Roman Catholic shrines to the Virgin Mary such as Lourdes in France and Fatima in Portugal...Many venerate her like one of their own goddesses...⁶⁰¹

Additionally, apparitions such as in Akita Japan, may be helping set the stage for greater acceptance of “Marian Apparitions” in Asia. On January 4, 1975, a Marian statue reportedly began to weep there told Nun Agnes Katsuko:

The Blessed Virgin rejoices in the consecration of Japan to her Immaculate Heart because she loves Japan. But she is sad that this devotion is not taken seriously...Grant to Japan the grace of conversion through the intercession of the Virgin Mary...⁶⁰²

There have been reports of one or more stigmatic and weeping “Marian” statues in Akita, Japan with at least 100 weepings.⁶⁰³ Pope Benedict XVI seemingly endorsed much of Akita and tied its message in with that of Fatima.⁶⁰⁴

Although Mary is not part of Buddhism, it was interesting to note that the leader of the Tibetan Buddhists, the Dalai Lama, prayed at the little Fatima chapel in 2001.⁶⁰⁵

The Taoists revere the goddess, Tian Hou, who is called the “Queen of Heaven”⁶⁰⁶ (she is also known as the “Mother goddess”).

Here are a few comments on Mary and certain Buddhist faiths from Ella Rozett, who wrote that she “attends Catholic church almost every day”⁶⁰⁷:

Mother Mary is largely unknown in the Buddhist world, the only exception perhaps being Maria Kannon. The latter is a hybrid of Mother Mary and the Bodhisattva of love and compassion whom the Japanese call Kannon, the Chinese Kuan Yin, the Tibetans Chenresig and the Indians Avalokiteshvara...

Much like the Virgin Mary, the Chinese Kuan Yin is said to have lived a human life of extreme self-

sacrifice and holiness before she ascended into heaven and became a celestial Goddess of Mercy and Compassion. Since her ascension she has been appearing as “a woman in white” to those in need of help...

Some trace the striking similarities between Mary and especially the White Clad Kuan Yin back to the historical influence of Christians coming to China in the early 600's... At the time the Chinese were longing for the divine feminine, and Chinese Buddhism needed someone who could compete with the powerful Taoist goddesses.⁶⁰⁸

So, the idea of female apparitions appearing exists in at least one Eastern faith. Some believe that Kuan Yin was a male now with the outward appearance of a female⁶⁰⁹ (perhaps Satan may appear like “her,” in Revelation 13:4) and that her visits may be related to visitors in China in the 600s.

Kuan Yin is also known as the “Goddess of Mercy” and is sometimes called *Guan Yin*.⁶¹⁰ A few of the pictures I have seen of her show her riding a serpentine beast in the water, which brings up a tie to Revelation 17:1-3. Various paintings and statues I have seen of Kuan Yin remind me of Marion ones, including the frequent use of a type of halo and a crown, the style of dress, as well as sometimes being shown as a Madonna with child. Hence, this may be a reason that the Chinese might be inclined to pay attention to a future “Marian” apparition. Centuries-old Chinese prophecies suggest that the Chinese may end up paying attention to Western religious leaders in the end time.⁶¹¹

Furthermore in Asia, “Many see no contradiction in praying to *Guan Yin*...one day... and on another, praying to the Virgin Mary at the Novena Roman Catholic Church.”⁶¹²

Thus it appears that despite not quite having the Catholic devotion to Mary or Islamic veneration to Fatima, those in various Eastern faiths can be intrigued by the feminine, and may be highly impacted by public alleged Marian apparition(s) in the future. But, no Buddhist, Taoist, Muslim, Hindu, Protestant, Mormon, Catholic, or anyone else should.

Some Hold That an Interreligious Approach Could be the Result of Fatima

One valid fear that some Fatimists have is that Fatima, instead of opposing ecumenicalism, will be used as a tool for an ecumenical religion that compromises.⁶¹³ Bible prophecy suggests that a compromised religion based out of the “City of Seven Hills” (Revelation 17:1-15, NJB cf. Zephaniah 2:15) that is widely accepted (Revelation 13:4, 8) will be around during the time of Antichrist.

A “Lady” apparition told Marie-Claire that she chose Rwanda to appear in the early 1980s because, “she wanted to show the world that God sees and hears all of His children – rich and poor, white or black, man or woman.”⁶¹⁴ And while God does see and hear all, this apparition’s message seems to be a hint that the “Lady” will be a factor in bringing in people from various races, and even various religions.

The Fatima Crusader reported:

October 2003, when Rector Guerra held an interfaith Congress at Fatima...the heretical Father Jacques Dupuis said...that all religions – Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist – are

positively willed by God and these religions are all part of the “Kingdom of God.”⁶¹⁵

I would agree that those statements are heretical. Some with “New-Age” tendencies have felt that despite “some back-pedaling from Vatican spokespeople” related to similar statements from Rector Guerra, the Church of Rome is using Fatima to attract followers of “the Goddess” they believe is Diana/Artemis/Isis/Asherah.⁶¹⁶ This would shock many Catholics – Asherah is specifically condemned in the Bible (1 Kings 15:13; 2 Kings 21:7; 23:4; 2 Chronicles 15:16, NJB). Since I do not believe that “goddesses” come from God, it would be wise to consider that any goddess appearances, if real, were demonic in origin (cf. Revelation 13:4; Isaiah 47).

Based upon sacred scripture (Daniel 11:40), the religious fervor that is often present in the Islamic world, and the pagan connection to female apparitions, I suspect that any close “semi-ecumenical” alliance with the majority of the Muslims will be very short-lived. The Bible tells of a time when the final “King of the South” (a Caliphate-type leader of a likely Islamic confederation, who some may consider to be the Imam Mahdi⁶¹⁷) will make a deal with the final European “King of the North” (Daniel 11:27), but later attack the King of the North (Daniel 11:40). Some countries, like Turkey (ancient Edom) will apparently end up supporting the Europeans (Daniel 11:25-26, 41).

Regarding Fatima, I am more of the opinion that since some Muslims somewhat venerate Muhammed’s daughter Fatima, the Hindus have various female deities, the Chinese have had female apparitions, Japan and other lands have had apparitions, many Protestants are getting closer to Rome, many people believe in goddesses, most Buddhist’s tend to support a more ecumenical view of religion, etc.

that Marian apparitions may be used to help many groups get together (at least temporarily).

Because of Fatima, this may be a reason that many Catholics (and others) will be less guarded about accepting the validity of future, and likely more public, apparitions of a Lady who may actually claim to be Mary.

13. HISTORY OF THE THREE SHEPHERDS & THE LADY

There are two charts in this chapter to summarize certain information in a sequential order.

The first one gives summary information about the three shepherds.

Date	Shepherd	Event
28 March 1907	Lúcia	Birth of Lúcia.
11 June 1908	Francisco	Birth of Francisco.
11 March 1910	Jacinta	Birth of Jacinta.
1915	Lúcia	Appearance of unknown object/person in air.
1916	Lúcia	“Boy/angel” appears.
13 May 1917	All three	“Lady” appears in Fatima.
13 October 1917	All three	Last appearance of Lady in Fatima, also called day of “the miracle of the sun.”
4 April 1919	Francisco	Death of Francisco.
20 February 1920	Jacinta	Death of Jacinta.
1921	Lúcia	Quarantined and silenced in Porto, Portugal.
Later 1920s	Lúcia	Claims to see apparitions of Mary and Jesus.
16 December 1925	Lúcia	Relocated to Pontevedra, Spain.
July 1926	Lúcia	Relocated to Tuy, Spain
1927	Lúcia	Writes down two Fatima secrets, but destroys them.

29-30 May 1930	Lúcia	Claims to have received messages on “five kinds of offenses and blasphemies.”
12-13 June 1930	Lúcia	Claims to receive message for Russian consecration.
25 December 1935	Lúcia	Lúcia finishes 1 st memoir.
21 November 1937	Lúcia	Lúcia finishes 2 nd memoir.
31 August 1941	Lúcia	Lúcia finishes 3 rd memoir.
8 December 1941	Lúcia	Lúcia finishes 4 th memoir.
8 February 1960	Lúcia	Vatican issues statement that it will not stand behind her messages ascribed to Fatima apparitions.
1960	Lúcia	Lúcia permanently cloistered.
1967	Lúcia	Pope Paul VI refuses to meet with her.
26 June 2000	All three	Cardinal Ratzinger issues statement that the Fatima messages may have been “only projections of the inner world of children.”
June 2003	Lúcia	Dr. Joaquin M. Alonso admits her memoirs have problems with dates and was influenced by conventual literature.
13 February 2005	Lúcia	Death of Lúcia.

This next chart attempts to provide certain highlights related to the history of the Lady, including some doctrinal issues. Most of the references come from Roman or Eastern Orthodox Catholic sources, though their writers often tend not to interpret the events the same way as I have laid them out here.

Approximate A.D. Date	Event	Prophetic Relationship
c. 120-200	Doctrinal compromise occurring in the City of Seven Hills. ⁶¹⁸ Also an innovation (perpetual virginity) that was not part of the Bible or apostolic traditions, but originally came from a falsified document, ⁶¹⁹ is starting to be claimed about “the Virgin.” ⁶²⁰	1 John 2:18-19, 24,26 cf. Jude 3,4,8,16
c. 200-400	Groups and individuals rise up that oppose Marian innovations, ⁶²¹ yet over time, more of the innovations are adopted by Roman supporters. ⁶²²	1 John 2:18-19, 24,26; Revelation 17; Zephaniah 2:15
c. 238	Gregory the Wonder worker reports seeing the first apparition of a “Lady” who is claimed to be Mary. ⁶²³ Gregory has signs and murderous wonders. ⁶²⁴	Isaiah 47:12 Matthew 24:24 cf. Zechariah 5:5-11 cf. John 8:44
249-251	Roman Emperor Decius introduces persecution intended for “the complete extinction of Christianity itself.” ⁶²⁵ The leadership and the faithful in Asia Minor are impacted, some flee, and ecclesiastical succession stops being clearly reported. ⁶²⁶	Matthew 10:23 Revelation 2:10a

264, 266	Gregory the Wonder Worker attends one or more councils in Antioch and helps extend Rome's ecclesiastical power outside of Italy. ⁶²⁷	Isaiah 47:12-13
245-270	Those in Asia Minor who held to the original practices of the Apostle John no longer predominate. ⁶²⁸ New leaders arise that support a more worldly, interconnected faith. ⁶²⁹ Gregory the Wonder Worker was a factor in this development. ⁶³⁰	Revelation 17:1-4 1 John 2:19 cf. Isaiah 47:12 cf. Zechariah 5:5-11 Nahum 3:4-5
c. 375	Epiphanius warned that some were worshipping Mary and were causing "excess awe of the saint." ⁶³¹	cf. Luke 4:8
430-431	Some complained that "If Mary is called the Mother of God, she will be made into a goddess..." ⁶³² Despite claims to the contrary, ⁶³³ the expression "Mother of God" is not directly found in writings by "church fathers" like Ignatius, Irenaeus, or Tertullian nor scripture. A version of it, though, was adopted in 431 as an apparent compromise with Hellenistic and/or other pagans. ⁶³⁴	Jeremiah 10:2-5 Jude 3 cf. 1 Timothy 4:16

4th-11th centuries	There are sporadic reports of apparitions of “the Lady.”⁶³⁵	cf. Mark 13:22-23
c. 650 to Present	The Chinese celestial Goddess of Mercy and Compassion, Kuan Yin, started to appear. She seems to be equivalent to “the Lady” many think is Mary of the Bible.⁶³⁶	cf. 2 Timothy 3:13
c. 1140 through 13th century	Monk Eadmer introduces a Marian innovation (immaculate conception) that is denounced by various Catholic saints, but eventually gains supporters.⁶³⁷	cf. 2 Timothy 3:13 Jude 3
12th-15th centuries	There is a dramatic increase, mainly in Europe, in the reported apparitions of “the Lady,”⁶³⁸ and many make prophecies who claimed to have seen her.⁶³⁹	Mark 13:22 Nahum 3:4
14th century	Orthodox saint Sergius claims to see the Lady and reinvigorates Russia to accept an icon-utilizing faith.⁶⁴⁰	cf. 2 Timothy 3:13 Jude 3 cf. 1 John 5:21

13. HISTORY OF THE THREE SHEPHERDS & THE LADY

1531	A “Lady,” resembling ‘Tonantzin’ the Aztec goddess, shows up at a pagan temple site in Mexico ⁶⁴¹ and still is considered as “a... Mexican Queen of Heaven.” ⁶⁴² Despite the pagan connections, a changed type of “Catholic” faith spreads throughout Latin America. ⁶⁴³	Revelation 17:1-4 cf. Isaiah 47:12 Jeremiah 7:18; 10:2-5 Nahum 3:4-5 2 Timothy 3:13
c. 1710	Catholic saint Louise-Marie Grignon de Montfort warns that the “devil... has already deceived and destroyed so many souls by a false devotion to the Blessed Virgin.” ⁶⁴⁴	2 Corinthians 11:14-15 Nahum 3:4 Jude 3
1846	A “Lady” appears in La Salette, France. ⁶⁴⁵ Though she makes prophecies that prove false, ⁶⁴⁶ the appearance is approved by the Church of Rome. ⁶⁴⁷	Mark 13:22 1 Timothy 4:1
1858	A “Lady” professes a non-apostolic tradition (immaculate conception) in contradiction to sacred scripture. ⁶⁴⁸	Romans 3:23 Hebrews 4:15 Nahum 3:4-5

1917	A “Lady,” resembling Diana the Greek goddess, makes a series of appearances in Fatima, Portugal. ⁶⁴⁹ Portugal politically then becomes more supportive of Catholicism. ⁶⁵⁰	cf. 2 Timothy 3:13 1 Corinthians 10:13
1943	After WWI is over, Pope Pius is elected, and WWII starts, Lúcia publishes that the Lady predicted these events. ⁶⁵¹	cf. 1 John 4:1
1946	An apparition claims the Lady will become much more publicly known in the future. ⁶⁵²	cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:7-9
1960	The Vatican says it “does not pledge Herself to guarantee the veracity of the words which the three shepherds claim to have heard from Our Lady.” ⁶⁵³	cf. 1 John 4:1
1973	In Akita, Japan, the Lady falsely stated, “I alone am able to save you from the calamities that approach.” ⁶⁵⁴	cf. Acts 4:10-12 Galatians 1:6-9 1 Timothy 4:1
1981	After an attempted assassination attempt against his life, Pope John Paul II greatly increases popular devotion to the Lady. ⁶⁵⁵	cf. 2 Timothy 3:13

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1983	Ali Ağca publicizes a claim that the Lady of Fatima is an Islamic, not Catholic, apparition. ⁶⁵⁶ He calls Muhammad's daughter "the goddess of Fatima." ⁶⁵⁷	cf. 2 Timothy 3:13 Jeremiah 10:2
2000	Regarding the third Fatima secret, Bishop Ratzinger writes, "No great mystery is revealed; nor is the future unveiled..." ⁶⁵⁸	cf. 1 John 4:1
2004	Hindus are allowed to have pagan ceremony at the Fatima sanctuary. ⁶⁵⁹	cf. 2 Timothy 3:13 1 Timothy 4:1
2010	Pope Benedict XVI states "We would be mistaken to think that Fatima's prophetic mission is complete." ⁶⁶⁰	cf. 1 John 4:1 cf. Isaiah 47:12
2013	Pope Francis' pontificate <u>dedicated to Fatima's Lady.</u>	cf. 2 Chronicles 33:3; cf.
2017	Jacinta and Francisco are canonized by Pope Francis.	Galatians 1:6-8
1984-Present	A "Lady" keeps giving messages in Medjugorje. ⁶⁶¹ Many of them contradict sacred scripture and Catholic doctrine. ⁶⁶²	cf. 1 John 4:1 cf. Isaiah 47:12 1 Corinthians 10:13
The Future	The Bible warns that signs and lying wonders will appear which will deceive almost everyone until God stops it. <i>Might public appearances of a Lady that performs wonders be a factor?</i>	2 Thessalonians 2:7-9 Matthew 24:24 Mark 13:22 Isaiah 47:12 Jeremiah 25:12 Nahum 3:4-7

The Bible warns against the “queen of heaven” (Jeremiah 7:18). Sacred scripture is clear that Satan has a plan involving a “virgin...Lady of the Kingdoms” (Isaiah 47:1, 5), who is essentially the same woman as the harlot of Revelation 17 and 18. Though Satan will ultimately have his minions turn on her, Revelation 17:15-17, he seems to at times speak through/as her.

History suggests that the appearances and messages of the “Lady” and other “goddesses” have had major impact on the world. From changes in Antioch and Asia Minor, to Latin America, Russia, Europe, the Orient, and elsewhere, the Lady has had an impact. Bible prophecy indicates impostors will get even worse at the end (2 Timothy 3:13, NJB/NKJV). Some have suggested that since there have been false messages from many claimed Marian apparitions, this “wickedness” was predicted in Zechariah 5:5-11 and her display could be part of Satan’s plan.⁶⁶³

Has the Lady been conquering? Will she “conquer” more in the future before she is defeated? As the above chart and the Bible show (cf. Isaiah 47:12; Revelation 6:2; 17:16-18; Nahum 3:4-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-11), it seems so. Do not believe the lie (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

Sacred scripture teaches that we are not to be ignorant of Satan's devices (2 Corinthians 2:11). Hopefully, Fatima Shock! has shown how Satan has historically deceived through apparitions that could not be Mary. And Satan is not finished with his deceptions.

As Jesus taught, watch (Mark 13:22, 35-37).

14. WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM FUTURE APPARITIONS?

Both biblical and Catholic prophecy tell of a time that more dramatic appearances will become public. Ecumenical compromise is expected, as is demonic involvement.

There have been apparitions throughout history that have affected the world. Future apparitions of a Lady are likely to produce demonic “miracles” in addition to anti-biblical messages. Sadly, nearly all will fall for false signs and lying wonders.

What can you expect from future apparitions? “Mariologist Mark Miravalle” reported Marian apparitions have increased,⁶⁶⁴ and we can probably expect that trend to continue.

According to biblical (2 Thessalonians 2:7-9; Revelation 13; Revelation 18; Matthew 24:24; Mark 13:22) and Catholic prophecy it would seem that we should expect them to become more public, and probably to endorse an ecumenical religion that many in the world will follow (Revelation 13:4, 8). Maybe, including another ‘miracle of the sun.’

Satan has a plan. The Beast (Revelation 16:13-14), False prophet (Revelation 13:11-17; 16:13-14), and others (Matthew 24:24) are involved with signs and lying wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:7-12), while apparitions claiming to be a Lady (cf. Isaiah 47:5,9,12; Revelation 18:7,23) are likely to contribute to this in the end-times.

Some believe that “Mary” will have power during the time of the Great Monarch (and assist him), and this will lead to many conversions:

R. Gerald Culleton (20th century): During the reign of the Great Monarch and the Angelic Pastor the Catholic Church will spread throughout the world, conversions will be innumerable...The Blessed Virgin will be the chief one in gaining victory over all heresy...⁶⁶⁵

Blessed Hieronymus Agathagelos (1279): The Angel, Mary and John, along with the great and first among martyrs...will intercede.⁶⁶⁶

Anna-Katrina Emmerick (July 12, 1820): When the Mass had ended, Mary came up to Henry (the Emperor), and she extended her right hand towards him, saying that it was in recognition of his purity. Then, she urged him not to falter...⁶⁶⁷

Catholic writer Yves Dupont (20th century): Henry is the Great Monarch...The Blessed Virgin urges him not to falter.⁶⁶⁸

Saint Louis de Montfort (18th century): These great souls...shall be singularly devoted to our Blessed Lady, illuminated by her nourishment, led by her spirit, supported by her arm, and sheltered under her protection, so that they shall fight in one hand and build with the other. With the one hand they shall fight, overthrow and crush the heretics with their heresies, the schismatics with their schisms...⁶⁶⁹

The Ecstatic of Tours: ...the French people will... implore the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary Immaculate...The French people will ask for the good King...this King...will ascend to the throne;

he will free the church and reassert the Pope's rights...⁶⁷⁰

Sister Marie Lataste (died 1847): Peace shall return to the world because of Blessed Virgin Mary will breathe over the storms and quell them.⁶⁷¹

Pope Pius IX (died 1878): We expect that the Immaculate Virgin...will gain in influence from day to day among all nations and in all places, prosper and rule from ocean to ocean...to the ends of the earth...there will be one fold and one shepherd.⁶⁷²

Thus, there seems to be an end-time tie between the rise of the European Great Monarch, an ecumenical religion, and apparitions claiming to be Mary. I am concerned that the last Apostle to die may falsely be claimed to be involved in supporting this dangerous individual as ecclesiastical succession can be traced through the real Apostle John—it may be that false apparitions claiming to be John will renounce the actual practices that his spiritual successors have kept from him and the other original apostles.

Perhaps it should be mentioned that some believe because of a statement about the King of the North and “the desire of women” in Daniel 11:37 (KJV)⁶⁷³ and the betrayal of the woman in Revelation 17:16 by the forces of the Beast, this suggests that the King of the North will use Marian apparitions to his advantage before turning on the Church of Rome.⁶⁷⁴ Additionally, it is claimed about Daniel 11:37:

The expression “the Desire of Women” is placed between two nouns which indubitably refer to concrete gods; it must therefore, itself designate some individual deity...**She is...**the Ishtar of the

Assyrians; the Astarte of the Phoenicians; the Queen of Heaven mentioned by Jeremiah...Diana, of the Ephesians... **the goddess of whom we have so often heard as Our Lady...**⁶⁷⁵

Ecumenical Private Revelations and Medjugorje

Some Fatima supporters are afraid that “a politically correct and ‘ecumenical’ revisionist ‘interpretation’ of the Message of Fatima” is being adopted by certain members of the Catholic clergy.⁶⁷⁶ Some also believe that the messages of Medjugorje are “heresy after heresy” and encourage ecumenism that many Fatimists oppose.⁶⁷⁷

The “Lady” in Medjugorje allegedly said:

All religions are equal before God...In God there are no divisions or religions; it is you in the world that created divisions...God directs all denominations as a king directs his subjects...It is you who are divided on the earth. The Muslims and the Orthodox, like the Catholics, are equal before my Son and before me, for you are all my children.⁶⁷⁸

Since the Fatimists can (correctly) denounce Medjugorje as heresy because of some of the messages, all should realize that the same is true with many of the messages of Fatima.

Msgr. Pavao Zanic, the former Bishop of Mostar (which includes Medjugorje), in 1990 wrote:

For even a short description of the falsehoods about Medjugorje we would need 200 pages... Presbitero Rodriguez Teofilo...asked me for the reasons why I do not believe in the “apparitions”... I told him about the case of the ex-Franciscan

priest Ivica Vego. Due to his disobedience, by an order of the Holy Father the Pope, he was thrown out of his Franciscan religious order OFM by his General, dispensed from his vows and suspended "a divinis." He did not obey this order and he continued to celebrate Mass, distribute the sacraments and pass the time with his mistress. It is unpleasant to write about this, yet it is necessary in order to see who Our Lady is speaking of. According to the diary of Vicka and the statements of the "seers," Our Lady mentioned 13 times that he is innocent and that the bishop is wrong. When his mistress, sister Leopolda, a nun, became pregnant, both of them left Medjugorje and the religious life and began to live together near Medjugorje where their child was born. Now they have two children. His prayerbook is still sold in Medjugorje and beyond in hundreds of thousands of copies.⁶⁷⁹

Yet, many still believe in Medjugorje. In 1985, Cardinal Ratzinger "banned pilgrimages to the site. But this has been widely ignored. Instead the seers have grown wealthy as a result of their claims."⁶⁸⁰ The banning was ignored because many believe that because some of the messages seem fine (the devil is subtle enough not to make all the messages clearly false), some are curious, and others believe that various claimed healings at Medjugorje are proof that it is valid anyway. But obviously Mary of the Bible would not have made false statements justifying a fornicating priest nor would she have endorsed all religions as equal as was claimed.

Speaking of the Lady at Medjugorje, Antonio Socci wrote:

The children of Medjugorje (and other visionaries) {say}...She is a "marvelous lady who appears about 18 years old, about five foot seven inches in height, a slender figure, wavy, black-chestnut hair, markedly blue eyes...There is a light that accompanies Her always and emanates from Her: She is the most beautiful creature ever seen."⁶⁸¹

There are similarities (and differences) to the Fatima Lady that should give those who believe in both apparitions pause.

Cross and Ecumenical Compromise

"Brother David Lopez," made the following claims about a message supposedly from Mary in August 1987:

Before the great tribulation, there is going to be a sign. **We will see in the sky one great red cross** on a day of blue sky without clouds...This cross will be seen by everyone: Christians, pagans, atheists, etc., as well as all the prepared ones... who will be guided by God in the way of Christ. They will receive grace to interpret the significance of the cross.⁶⁸²

So, signs in the heavens may happen according to the above apparition.

In an apparition in Pfaffenhofen, Germany (which is not one of the approved Marian apparitions by the Vatican⁶⁸³), one some have claimed was Mary made the following assertions, on June 25, 1946, according to two related accounts:

In secret I will work marvels...till the number of victims is filled...shorten the days of darkness...

Then, I can manifest myself to the world...Pray and offer sacrifices through me...⁶⁸⁴

The Father wants the world to recognize His handmaid...My sign is about to appear. God wills it...**I cannot reveal my power to the world as yet... Then I will be able to reveal myself...Pray and sacrifice through me!...I will impose crosses on my children** that will be as heavy and as deep as the sea.⁶⁸⁵

Notice that this apparition is claiming that in a future time, she will become known to the world (and that she wants sacrifices through herself, apparently for her glory). This could mean that some apparitions claiming to be Mary may publicly appear in many places in the next decade. And many people will tend to accept these appearances as valid.

This is also confirmed by another non-Vatican approved apparition to one calling herself Mariamante in 1987:

The wickedness of man would destroy my plan if possible...You will know by the sign in the heavens which is I myself that the time is at hand for the instant conversion of the multitude.⁶⁸⁶

Thus, there are apparitions that seem to warn that someone will oppose these false apparitions, and that apparitions perceived to be Mary will be instrumental in converting multitudes of peoples.

The Catholic saint Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort warned:

The devil, like a false coiner and a subtle and experienced sharper, has already deceived and

destroyed so many souls by a false devotion to the Blessed Virgin, that he makes a daily use of his diabolical experience to plunge many others by this same way into everlasting perdition; amusing them, lulling them to sleep in sin, under the pretext of some prayers badly said or of some outward practices which he inspires.⁶⁸⁷

Satan is subtle and has long used false devotions to Mary as part of that deception.

There have been many claimed statements from “Mary” that have been proven to have been false. This has happened so many times, that the Vatican took steps in 2009 to prevent its followers from mentioning them until they have been researched in depth.⁶⁸⁸ There was a 1993 book titled *Thunders of Justice* in which its Catholic authors promote many of the Marion apparitions, locutions, and mystics. The book contains many accounts of predictions that turned out to be wrong after the book was published⁶⁸⁹ (but, despite that, it was reissued and updated in 2010).

It was interesting to me that the apparition in Pfaffenhofen said she would “impose crosses” on her followers. This is consistent with something that the Marian Movement of Priests reported following the “Marian” messages (**bolding** in source):

September 29, 1987: The Angels of Light of my Immaculate Heart...**are giving you the crucifix and rosary as the weapons to be used for the great victory.**

September 8, 1989: **I also, your heavenly leader, am signing, with my heavenly seal, all those who have consecrated themselves to my Immaculate Heart and who have formed part of my army. I**

am imprinting my seal on your foreheads with the most holy sign of the Cross of my Son Jesus...
Allow yourselves all to be signed on the forehead and on the hand with my motherly seal...⁶⁹⁰

A “Lady” allegedly appearing to Matous Losuta of Czechoslovakia in 1958 stated:

All my children will receive and carry the sign of the cross on their foreheads. This sign only my chosen ones will see.⁶⁹¹

Concerning the last three messages, Ted and Maureen Flynn wrote:

For those who may be skeptical of these startling pronouncements, Revelation 7 says exactly the same thing.⁶⁹²

Actually, Revelation 7 discusses God having angels sealing 144,000 (there are multiple times those numbers of people who claim devotion to Mary), does not mention anything to do with devotion to Mary/Immaculate Heart, and does not mention crosses. Thus, the interpretation that the Flynnns have made here is not truly correct.

The information from those apparitions is deceptive. Thus, one wonders if a cross of some type may be (or related to) the mark/seal/character of the beast warned against in Revelation 13:16-17—certain Catholic writings suggest this may be so.⁶⁹³ The goddess Diana has been, similarly at times to Marian images, shown to be with a cross (Mary herself never carried a cross).⁶⁹⁴ Some suggest that hot cross buns offered to Diana were related to the warning against the Queen of Heaven in Jeremiah 3:18.⁶⁹⁵ Compromised feminine images, including those

with crosses, are theologically dangerous (Isaiah 47:1-15; Revelation 17:1-18).

Apparitions May Have Demons Do Their Bidding

This may sound unbelievable, but according to both biblical and Catholic prophecy, it appears that apparitions are likely to not only be public, but have demonic influence.

First, notice the following from the Bible:

13 And I saw from the mouth of the dragon, and from the mouth of the beast, and from the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. 14 For they are the spirits of devils working signs, and they go forth unto the kings of the whole earth, to gather them to battle against the great day of the Almighty God. (Revelation 16:13-14, DRB)

11 And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns, like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon. 12 And he executed all the power of the former beast in his sight; and he caused the earth, and them that dwell therein, to adore the first beast, whose wound to death was healed. 13 And he did great signs, so that he made also fire to come down from heaven unto the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he seduced them that dwell on the earth, for the signs, which were given him to do in the sight of the beast, saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make the image of the beast, which had the wound by the sword, and lived. (Revelation 13:11-14, DRB)

Demonic wonders and sorceries are expected, including also from a “virgin” “lady” (Isaiah 47:1, 5, 12).

Certain Catholics have claimed that “Mary” will essentially have power over the demons:

St. Louis-Marie Grignion De Montfort (18th century):
The power of Mary over all the devils will be particularly outstanding in the last period of time. She will extend the Kingdom of Christ over the idolaters and Moslems, and there will come glorious era when Mary is the Ruler and Queen of Hearts.⁶⁹⁶

Priest R. Gerald Culleton (20th century): During the reign of the Great Monarch and the Angelic Pastor...The Blessed Virgin will be the chief one in gaining victory over all heresy and schism because of **her power over the demons in the last ages of the world will be especially great.** This will be recognized by her enthronement as "Mistress and Queen of Men's Hearts."⁶⁹⁷

Venerable Maria of Agreda (died 1665): The powers of Mary in the last time will extend the reign of Christ over the heathen and the Mohammedans and it will be a time of great joy when Mary, as Mistress and Queen of Hearts, is enthroned.⁶⁹⁸ Before the second coming of Christ, Mary must, more than ever, shine in mercy, might and grace in order to bring unbelievers into the Catholic Faith. **The power of Mary in the last times over the demons will be very conspicuous.**⁶⁹⁹

A female that has power over demons seems to be warned about in biblical prophecy (cf. Isaiah 47:5, NJB; Nahum 3:5-6, NKJV). There are other Catholic mystics that suggest that the final (ecumenical) Catholic Church will have the power of demons on its side as well.

The Bible also tells how Christians can help to not be deceived by the devil and his demons:

11 Put you on the armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the deceits of the devil. 12 For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood; but against principalities and power, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the high places. 13 Therefore take unto you the armour of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and to stand in all things perfect. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of justice, 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace: 16 In all things taking the shield of faith, wherewith you may be able to extinguish all the fiery darts of the most wicked one. 17 And take unto you the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit (which is the word of God). (Ephesians 6:11-17, DRB)

Thus, the Bible teaches that by being committed to the truth, having faith, and using the word of God is what is needed. It does not say that listening to apparitions is the way to deal with deception. Putting on the “whole armour of God” is what the Bible says Christians are to do to deal with this end time age.

Thus, I believe that those who claim otherwise, like the following, are in error:

We **MUST** continue to proclaim more openly - to a wider audience still - the **WHOLE** truth about Our Lady of Fatima’s Message that:

- FATIMA is the **ONLY** way to World Peace;
- FATIMA is the **ONLY** way to save many millions of souls...⁷⁰⁰

Yet, the truth is that Fatima is contrary to Mary and the Bible.

Oddly, some Catholics like Ted and Maureen Flynn, have gone so far as to also claim:

God is using apparitions (heavenly appearances) and locutions (interior messages) because other means have failed.⁷⁰¹

But this simply is not the message of the Bible. The Bible is clear that God's plan is to provide a witness (Matthew 24:14) and if humans do not listen, additional witnesses and punishments (Leviticus 26:14-28). The Bible never indicates that formerly-human apparitions are God's plan. And if one reads the Book of Revelation (the Apocalypse) from beginning to end, one will clearly see that God will provide witnesses to His way (Revelation 11:2-12) and use punishments (Revelation 16:1-19). God does not fail and the use of apparitions of Mary is not in the Book.

Notice another that made statements that are not supported by sacred scripture:

Sister Marie Lataste (died 1847): From the east to the west, from the north to the south, all shall proclaim the holy name of Mary.

The Bible uses the expression "holy name" between 17 (DRB) and 22 (NKJV) times, and in all instances, this is a reference to God and not to Mary. In 2012, Bishop Juan Abelardo Mata Guevera claimed, "Our Lady told us only She can save us"⁷⁰² also is against scripture.

Believe God, believe the Bible, do not be deceived by apparitions whether they appear to be from God or not (Galatians 1:8) – unless they only teach what the true Saints in the Bible endorse.

The Lady of Guadalupe: Aztec Connections

One of the most important claimed Marian apparitions is the appearance of one in Mexico known today as Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Antonio Socci reported:

The apparition of Guadalupe — according to the general acknowledgement of historians — was what attracted the Indians to Christianity. Therefore, it was precisely Guadalupe that gave birth to Latin American Christianity.⁷⁰³

Some, like Ted and Maureen Flynn, have gone so far as to state:

Our Lady of Guadalupe means, “She Who Crushes the Serpent.”⁷⁰⁴

But that seems to be a misunderstanding on their part. Dr. Jeanette Rodríguez, a Catholic scholar, wrote:

Juan Diego...said, “She calls herself ‘Tlecuauhtlacupeuh.’ ” To the Spaniards this sounded like “Guadalupe”...But the Nahuatl language does not contain the letters *d* and *g*; therefore our Lady’s name could not have been “Guadalupe”... The Nahuatl understanding of “Tlecuauhtlacupeuh” is *La que viene volando de la luz como el águila de fuego* (she who comes flying like a region of light like an eagle of fire, Echeagaray 1981:21). The region of light was the dwelling place of the Aztec gods, and the eagle was a sign from the gods.⁷⁰⁵

So, the Lady sounded a lot like an Aztec goddess.

Here are three online Catholic reports:

The appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to the Aztec Indian Juan Diego ...generated the conversion of Mexico, Central and South America to Catholicism.⁷⁰⁶

Our Lady of Guadalupe...appeared to an Aztec Indian...on Tepayac Hill, near Mexico City on December 9, 1531.⁷⁰⁷

The Virgin of Guadalupe appeared in what is now Mexico City on the holy hill of Tepeyac, dedicated to Tonantzin, the Mother Earth goddess of the Aztecs. That is one reason why the bishop didn't believe Juan Diego. He must have thought: "We know who appears on that mountain and it's not the Virgin Mary but some pagan goddess!" Actually, the native Mexicans thought the same thing: "We know who appears on that hill: Tonantzin!" And so they referred to what we call 'Virgin of Guadalupe' as 'Tonantzin' for more than a century. To this day Mexicans know the Virgin if {sic} Guadalupe not as just another form of Mother Mary, but as a particularly Mexican Queen of Heaven.⁷⁰⁸

It has been claimed that "Tonantzin, the mother goddess of the Aztecs, then took the form of the Virgin Mary. Therefore Tonantzin was substituted...because of the necessity to convert to the Catholic religion under a new political regime."⁷⁰⁹

Bernardino Sahagún, a Catholic missionary, wrote, "Now that the church of Our Lady of Guadalupe has

been built the Indians call her Tonantzin...This is an abuse that should be stopped...The Indians today as, in the old days, come from afar to see this Tonantzin."⁷¹⁰ Though Tonantzin could have been more of a title than a name, she is sometimes known as Coatlique, the serpent skirt goddess.⁷¹¹

Over one hundred years ago, the following was written:

The Legend of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Over three hundred years ago, it is said, an Indian was walking near the hill of Guadalupe, when there appeared to him a dark-skinned maiden. She ordered him to go to the Bishop and tell him she desired to have a church built in her honor on that spot... The Mexicans believe that the Virgin is their only protector, and they pray, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, save us from the wrath of Christ. Holy Mary, Mother of God, save us from the wrath of Christ."⁷¹²

Notice that the Lady wanted something built for her honor and many believed that it was through the Lady that they could be *spared from Christ!* The Bible shows it is Jesus who spares from the wrath to come (1 Thessalonians 1:10), *not* Mary. Thus, it could not have been a visit from Mary of the Bible. Furthermore, the Bible repeatedly mentions that God is merciful (e.g. James 5:11), but sacred scripture never specifically mentions that that any should go to Mary for mercy. The fact that at least one account states that the Lady had dark-skin (she has also been called the "mestiza Virgin"⁷¹³ and "Indian Virgin"⁷¹⁴) suggests that she did not look the same as certain other apparitions many later claimed to be Mary.

Why report any of this?

Because just like the Lady of Guadalupe (who could not have been Mary) was used to convert much of Latin America to a form of Catholicism, it is likely that a future apparition will be used to convert people in the end times to an ecumenical form of “Catholicism.” People need to be warned about this.

Protestant Concerns

There is a prophecy that indicates that certain end-time Marian supporters will eliminate Protestantism:

Saint Louis de Montfort (18th century): These great souls...singularly devoted to our Blessed Lady... shall fight, overthrow and crush the heretics with their heresies, the schismatics with their schisms...⁷¹⁵

Priest P. Kramer (21st century): **She says** “Then My time will come.” The Miracle of Grace will break out upon the world. **Evil will be destroyed**, wickedness will be conquered. And it is all set forth in the Message of Fatima, in the Secret of Fatima... Pope St. Pius V teaches in his Catechism, the Roman Catechism — also known as the Catechism of the Council of Trent — that all of the **Protestant religions are false religions, they’re inspired by the devil; and therefore their fruits are evil.**⁷¹⁶

Heretics are those baptized Catholic who deny one or more current dogmas,⁷¹⁷ whereas modern Protestants are generally considered to be schismatics.⁷¹⁸

Yet, some Protestant leaders have gotten more accepting of Marian aspects of faith:

Archbishop Williams...said...at Lourdes that when Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous in 1858 "she came at first as an anonymous figure, a beautiful lady, a mysterious thing, not yet identified as the Lord's spotless mother..." he said. The Archbishop later was criticized by the England-based Protestant Truth Society, a group of Anglicans and non-conformists committed to upholding the ideals of the Protestant Reformation...Jeremy Brooks, the group's director of ministry, said: "All true Protestants will be appalled that the Archbishop of Canterbury has visited Lourdes and preached there. "Lourdes represents everything about Roman Catholicism that the Protestant Reformation rejected, including apparitions, Mariolatry and the veneration of saints...**The archbishop's...sermon -- which included a reference to Mary as 'the mother of God' -- is a complete denial of Protestant orthodoxy.**"⁷¹⁹

Protestants need to understand that by eliminating heresies, Catholic prophecies sometimes specifically mean the elimination of Protestantism. Mary was not called the "Mother of God" by early faithful Christians or those who kept their practices.⁷²⁰ It seems to have started unofficially around the mid-third/early fourth century and became accepted in 431.⁷²¹ All of those statements about Mary used the term *Theotokos* which literally translates as "one who bore God," as opposed to "Mother of God."⁷²²

Catholic writer E. Rozett admitted:

Many scholars believe that Mary was declared the Mother of God and allowed to be venerated because of the need of the Hellenistic world for a heavenly feminine principle. They say it was a compromise with pagans in order for Christianity to become acceptable...this is quite true...⁷²³

No wonder some opposed this in the fifth century as they felt this could make a “goddess” out of Mary.⁷²⁴

Many Catholics believe that the Great Monarch (with guidance from their Mary apparitions most likely) will cause Protestantism to cease. Notice what the following says about this ruler:

Father Laurence Ricci, S.J. (died 1775): At a time when the whole world seems doomed, God will intervene. With His aide a valiant duke will arise from the ancient German house which was humiliated by the French monarch. This great ruler will restore stolen Church property. **Protestantism will cease** and the Turkish empire will end. This duke will be **the most powerful monarch on earth**. At a gathering of men noted for piety and wisdom **he will, with the aid of the Pope, introduce new rules, and ban the spirit of confusion**. Everywhere there will be one fold and one shepherd.”⁷²⁵

Protestantism will to a great degree cease during the reign of the Beast power, the King of the North that some Catholics refer to as the Great Monarch. Yet the most faithful in the Church of God (which is not “Protestant”) after first being subject to persecutions, are expected to be protected during this time, while persecutions will continue for the less faithful (cf. Revelation 3:7-10; 12:14-17).

Perhaps it should be mentioned that even some within the evangelical Protestantism believe that their movement may not last quite as such until 2019 as some suspect that many evangelicals will eventually decide to support the ecumenically-leaning Church of Rome.⁷²⁶

Russian Orthodox Apparition and an Eastern Orthodox View

The Catholics of Rome are not the only ones to have claimed to see apparitions. In the fourteenth century, Sergius became the first Russian Orthodox saint to see an apparition that he claimed was Mary.

It is reported that Sergius became “the real architect” of getting Russia to embrace the Orthodox Catholic faith and it was he who “helped spread through Russia” the “importance” of “icon painting.”⁷²⁷ But icon promotion was not an original practice of the church, and those types of paintings had been historically denounced by early clergy. Thus, it is not logical to conclude that Sergius saw Mary of the Bible.

Mainly because of Roman Catholic Marian claims, some Eastern Orthodox writers have been concerned that apparitions of “Mary” will be used as an ecumenical symbol for a false unity for Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, and others that will lead people to follow the final Antichrist:

Peter Jackson (20th century): “Mother goddesses” known in the ancient world were not just confined to the Near East and Mediterranean but are universal. The Kogi Indians, among whom we lived in Columbia, worship a spirit called Nabuba, the “Ancient Mother.” When Roman Catholics missionaries attempted to evangelize the Kogi in the last century...rather than explaining the

differences between the pagan mythology and Christian truth, they found “equivalences,” Christ, under this syncretistic view, corresponds to the Kogi Sejukukui (a trickster god who faked his own death by hiding in a cave), while Nabuba is said to be the Virgin Mary. This confusion has led the Kogis to call their pagan temples “cansamaria,” a corruption of “casa de Maria” (house of Mary)...

To which Mary are Muslims and Protestants being drawn? Rome began to see her more and more as a “goddess,” a fourth Hypostasis of the Trinity... Today, as heterodox Christians become more and more ecumenist and work toward creating a “One World Church,” the search has begun for a Mary of universal recognition, one who will appeal not only to those who bear the name Christian, but apparently to Muslims and others as well, just as attempts are likewise being made to identify the “new Christ” with the Muslim concept of their coming Mahdi and with the Messiah still awaited by the Jews. This, of course, will be no Christ at all but the antichrist.⁷²⁸

While the warning contains validity, the reality is that people tend to believe what they see with their own eyes, and often what others tell them they have seen.

Garabandal

According to Conchita Gonzalez and others at Garabandal Spain in the 1960s, a future “Marian” and “Eucharistic miracle,” that will be seen in the sky, is to begin on a Thursday at 8:30 p.m.⁷²⁹ It was also reported that Conchita stated about this event:

“the miracle was not only for the conversion of Russia,” but “for the conversion of the whole world”...⁷³⁰

The idea of apparitions being somewhat used to convert those all over the world is consistent with messages allegedly from some apparitions. Conchita is supposed to announce this “miracle” eight days before it happens to give this credibility.⁷³¹ But what Conchita and her associates claimed to have seen was a lying wonder, as she also claimed:

The Virgin told us something related to the Holy Father, and it was that before the Miracle there would be only three more Popes.⁷³²

Our Lady told me, ‘after Pope John, there will be three more popes...’ When Pope Paul Vi became Pope, our Lady mentioned this again. She said, ‘Now there will be two more popes...’⁷³³

After Paul VI, there remain *only two popes*. Following that, the “end of the times,” which is not the same as the “*end of the world*.”⁷³⁴

What prophecy of St. Malachy? I (Conchita) do not know anything about that prophecy. The Virgin told me, after this pope who had just died, there would be only three more before the end of time.⁷³⁵

But there have been four popes since Pope John XXIII died, without “The Miracle” occurring. Also, since Conchita was told that she would receive no further message from the Lady after June 18, 1965,⁷³⁶ she obviously should not be able to claim that she got a later message that changed it.

Notice also the following a Catholic writer related to this:

D. Lindsey: In June of 1963, *Conchita* announced that after the death of Pope John XXIII, the 261st pope, there would only be *three more popes* before the end of time as we know it. So according to *Conchita*, the chastisement will come during the reign of Pope John Paul II-- the 264th pope.⁷³⁷

It was clearly a lying wonder that Conchita and her companions claimed to have encountered. This may be part of why the Vatican has not yet accepted Garabandal-- but it would not surprise me if a "Miracle" occurred that an antipope or others in the Vatican would not change on this (especially since a "permanent sign" is supposed to remain after the initial fifteen minute "Miracle";⁷³⁸ it should also be pointed out that another apparition also claimed that there will be some permanent sign related to it in Denver, Colorado in the U.S.A.⁷³⁹).

"Catholic scholar Juan Antonio Monroy in his book *The Myth of Apparitions* criticized Garabandal along with many other popular apparitions, saying that the Holy Bible contains nothing to substantiate the possibility of such occurrences."⁷⁴⁰

Concerning "The Miracle" that Conchita referred to, Ted Flynn (who Priest Rene Laurentin has referred to as "A PROPHET"⁷⁴¹) co-wrote:

The miracle will be Marian. It will assert the glory of the Mother of God, so that all Christians will give up their objections to her role as in the Body of Christ...⁷⁴²

So, it is to reach the non-Catholics, such as Protestants and Eastern Orthodox, who do not accept the relatively new Catholic dogmas associated with “Mary.”

Beware of Marian Apparitions

Some Eastern Orthodox, Protestants, and Catholics are rightly concerned that allegedly Marian “miracles” will be used in a false manner. And that this may lead to an ecumenical religion that all, who claim to get their doctrine from sacred scripture (including the actual original traditions of the apostles), should not endorse.

This concern is consistent with biblical prophecy about deceptive signs:

22 for false Christs and false prophets will arise and produce signs and portents to deceive the elect, if that were possible. 23 You, therefore, must be on your guard. I have given you full warning. (Mark 13:22-23, NJB)

Fatima Shock! was written to warn people that apparitions that many people will think are Mary will likely be part of the of the signs and wonders that the Bible warns will deceive the world (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12).

Have the “love of the truth” (2 Thessalonians 2:10), love the truth of the word of God (“Thy word is truth,” John 17:17, DRB), so that you will not be deceived.

15. SHOCKING CONCLUDING COMMENTS

What is the real “secret” of Fatima? How might Fatimists be helping set the world up for massive deception? What should be done if apparitions of the Lady become undeniably public?

Vatican reporter Giuseppe De Carli wrote that because of Fatima, “John Paul II elevated Marian devotion to a new status.”⁷⁴³

That is part of what is so dangerous about Fatima. Misunderstandings of Fatima have helped elevate the concept of Marian devotion to be so pervasive that if a public apparition appears shortly many people will be willing to overlook the unbiblical flaws associated with Fatima to embrace the messages the apparition will be advocating. These alleged Marian apparitions have been, and will be unbiblical. It is not that they will not get anything right, but they have often had and likely will have again, parts of their message that are false and/or in contradiction to sacred scripture.

The Bible clearly warns of a soon coming time when massive deception will affect the entire world. Notice several such warnings in the New Testament:

24 for false Christs and false prophets will arise and provide great signs and portents, enough to deceive even the elect, if that were possible.
(Matthew 24:24, NJB)

3 Let no man deceive you by any means, for unless there come a revolt first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition...9 Whose coming is

according to **the working of Satan, in all power, and signs and lying wonders** 10 and every wicked deception aimed at those who are on the way to destruction because they would not accept the love of the truth and so be saved. 11 And therefore God sends on them a power that deludes people so that they believe what is false, (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 9, DRB, 10-11, NJB)

3 ...the whole world had marveled and followed the beast. 4 They prostrated themselves in front of the dragon because he had given the beast his authority; and they prostrated themselves in front of the beast, saying, 'Who can compare with the beast? Who can fight against it?' ... 8 and all people of the world will worship it, that is, everybody whose name has not been written down since the foundation of the world in the sacrificial Lamb's book of life. (Revelation 13:3-4, 8 NJB)

4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" ... 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him. (Revelation 13:4,8a NKJV)

Thus, Jesus and the Apostles warned that massive deception was coming (and the word that Saint Paul used for delusion was feminine in the Greek⁷⁴⁴). Deception that will result in the world worshiping what the Bible calls the beast power. It appears likely that apparitions which are claimed and/or presumed to be Mary will be a major factor in those deceptions (other signs and lying wonders are biblically-expected; also Byzantine prophecy teaches that signs as well as an "invisible herald from Heaven"

will announce the Great Monarch from heaven.)⁷⁴⁵ Almost everyone will be deceived and Fatima may be part of the reason!

Just because you may see apparitions and other apparently miraculous signs with your own eyes does not mean that they are from God (Revelation 13:13-15). Search the scriptures to see who/what is and is not true from God (cf. Acts 17:11).

I Agree that the Three Shepherds Saw a Series of Apparitions, But...

I agree that the three shepherds saw a “Lady” multiple times in Fatima, Portugal. And there are several other points of agreement that I have with the Fatimists.

The Fatimists who insist that an antipope is coming are right. The Fatimists who believe that the Antichrist will be an antipope are right. The Fatimists that believe that something is emerging in Europe that will be dangerous to true religion are right. The Fatimists that are concerned that an ecumenical religion that claims to be Catholic is coming and that Vatican compromise with the world is now occurring⁷⁴⁶ are right. They, and everyone else, should all be on the look-out for ecumenism, go back to the original faith as taught in sacred scripture, and not accept unbiblical dogma or changes for the sake of ecumenical unity.

Yet, the shocking truth about Fatima is that *some of the Fatimists themselves may have helped set the stage for a second-part of the third secret to be fabricated and revealed by the Vatican near or during the time of the coming Antipope*. Now, although I have major theological differences with probably all the other Fatima researchers I am aware of, the fact is that I believe that many (such as Priest Paul Kramer, Priest Nicholas Gruner, Antonio Socci,

etc.) are basically sincere and diligent (though all humans make errors) researchers. Yet, all should consider that portions of their work may be reinterpreted and result in additional fabricated messages being put forth.

The idea of something being put together for any unrevealed “third secret” is not that far-fetched. By claiming that perhaps Cardinal Bertone and Cardinal Ratzinger did not lie, but instead they had possibly understandable “mental reservations,” this could give future Vatican operatives “cover” should another message (whether or not it is truly the unrevealed third secret) be released. Some Fatimists have suggested that the Vatican may have considered any undisclosed additional lines “unauthentic,”⁷⁴⁷ thus it would seem that another “unauthentic” message could be put together.

An Unrevealed Portion of the Secret?

This additional message could be brief (it is only supposed to be 20-26 lines). Various clerics have warned that corruption in the Church of Rome as well as a schism involving the top clergy are part of the third message. Any additional message could say something like there will be doctrinal and other corruption in the Church of Rome, wonders/apparitions will happen while being opposed by some, Russia will turn against Europe and Portugal, a Jewish Antichrist who wins an Armageddon-related battle will come after a schism among the top clergy and other deadly (and sometimes fiery, cf. Revelation 16:8) disasters, and no one should accept the theological changes that will happen then.

While some Fatimists might support an interpretation like that, the reality is that according to the Holy Bible, a Russian-related power will turn against Europe (Daniel 11:44; Jeremiah 51:11), various leaders will turn against compromised Rome (cf. Revelation 17:9,16-18), it is the

"Jewish" Jesus (not Antichrist) that will arrive after the gathering at Armageddon (Revelation 16:18-19), the forces related to Antichrist and the Beast of Revelation will fight Him (Revelation 19:19), Jesus will win (Revelation 19:20-21), and Jesus will then reign with His true saints (Revelation 20:4). No matter how one views religion, it is likely that Jesus will make some/many adjustments to human misunderstandings when He reigns. And some may not like that.

This idea that many will resist and fight against God is not far-fetched. The Bible clearly says people aligned with Satan will be angry with God and fight Jesus upon His return (Revelation 11:18-19; 19:19-21; Daniel 8:25). Hundreds of millions of people will be killed (cf. Revelation 9:16; 19:13-21) because they accepted military and other instructions contrary to scripture (some might point to Fatima as part of their justification).

Interestingly, there was a book written in Italian by a journalist named Solideo Paolini, who has investigated aspects of Fatima. And in his book he prepared his own guesses at the "missing" text with translated words such as a "world convulsed by terror," a "great war," "fire and smoke that fall from heaven," "waters of the oceans which inundate parts of the earth," and "millions of men who will perish suddenly."⁷⁴⁸ Interestingly, the Bible specifically warns that many of those events will occur in the Apocalypse. Thus, it is possible that a similar misleading "secret" will be revealed as there will terror, etc. (the "Day of the Lord") that many may credit as the fulfilling of the secret instead of Bible prophecy. Other versions of what the possible "missing words" were of the third secret have also been speculated.⁷⁴⁹

Yet, even if no other "secret" ever comes out of Rome related to Fatima, the reality is that because of Fatima, more people are of a mindset to accept that an apparition

that may claim to be Mary is real, should one come on the scene publicly. This is consistent with both biblical and Catholic prophecy.

Believe the Word of God More than Your Eyes

So, what else is the shocking message of Fatima?

The shocking message is that apparitions claiming to be Mary of the Bible, yet spiritually resembling “Mary” of Fatima, will likely be cited as “proof” that the “Great Monarch” and “Angelic Pastor” are of God and not the final Beast and Antichrist that the Bible warns about. People will be misled by seeing those apparitions and various signs and lying wonders that will occur.

As mentioned, the Fatimists are correct who believe that an antipope is coming. But because of likely “Marian” apparitions in the future, many of them will fail to recognize the antipope once he arrives. Prophecy strongly suggests that this antipope will erroneously help persuade the world that the Beast (who many will claim is the Great Monarch) should be obeyed and excessively honored (Revelation 13:11-14). And he may even refer to some “secret” of Fatima, as well as outward signs, as part of his proof.

Notice carefully what the Bible teaches:

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen, are temporal; but the things which are not seen, are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:18, DRB)

7 For we walk by faith, and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7, DRB)

Apparitions claiming to be Mary are very likely to make public appearances — the one apparently currently restraining these things is prophesied to move out of

the way (2 Thessalonians 2:7, NJB). Partially, because of Fatima, many more may take “Marian” apparitions seriously – especially if they are highly public.

It will take signs and wonders, including possibly claimed Marian Apparitions, for the Europeans and many others to be less secular – and while some believe this is good, biblically it will be bad (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12). The Bible warns that a certain virgin, lady, city, mother, and harlot, all make the same type of statements and all are condemned (Isaiah 47:1-14; Zephaniah 2:15; Revelation 17:1-18; 18:7-8), despite “miraculous signs” called *sorceries* (Isaiah 47:9, 12; Nahum 23:4; Revelation 18:23) being involved – do not fall for them or their Babylonian system.

All should realize that Mary of the Bible is NOT prophesied in sacred scripture to return, be seen, or to help save humankind. If some apparition appears that does so, please do not believe it. God has limited Satan’s power such that His faithful people will not be deceived (1 Corinthians 10:13; Matthew 24:24) if they truly love the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10). There is a way of escape for people who love God, love His word, and who love the truth (1 Corinthians 10:13).

1 My dearest, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits if they be of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1, Original DRB)

Please believe what is taught in your Bible and do not be taken in by the massive deception that the Bible warns will be coming to the earth (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12; Mark 13:22; Revelation 13:2-18).

Believe God, believe His Word. Believe God more than what you see with your very own eyes (2 Corinthians 5:7). Show that you have real faith in the unseen God (Hebrews 11:1-3; 1 Timothy 6:16; 1 John 4:20; Colossian 1:15).

APPENDIX: CATHOLIC ORIGIN OF THE ROSARY, BROWN SCAPULAR, FATIMA STATUES, CO-REDEMPTRIX, AND THE BIBLE

Some feel that the rosary either came from St. Dominic or later Dominicans:

Some histories of the rosary claim this tradition, too, originated with Saint Dominic. **One legend holds that the Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Dominic** in the church of Prouille, in 1208, and gave the rosary to him. However, other sources dispute this attribution and suggest that its roots were in the preaching of Alan de Rupe between 1470-1475.⁷⁵⁰

Here is information from *The Catholic Encyclopedia* on the development of the rosary:

Impressed by this conspiracy of silence, the Bollandists, on trying to trace to its source the origin of the current tradition, found that all the clues converged upon one point, the preaching of the Dominican Alan de Rupe about the years 1470-75. He undoubtedly was the one who first suggested the idea that the devotion of “Our Lady’s Psalter” (a hundred and fifty Hail Mary’s) was instituted or revived by St. Dominic. Alan was a very earnest and devout man, but, **as the highest authorities admit, he was full of**

delusions, and based his revelations on the imaginary testimony of writers that never existed (see Quétif and Echard, "Scriptores O.P.", 1, 849).

So, the one who claimed that Dominic came up with the rosary was considered to be delusional by top Catholic authorities.

Also notice some interesting facts from Priest P.A. Duffner:

We do not have any historical documents dating from that period expressly referring to St. Dominic and the Rosary...We have to remember that in the time of St. Dominic:

1. The **HAIL MARY** did not exist as we pray it today...The word JESUS was not added until the 14th century, and the second half of the prayer came later still.
2. The **OUR FATHER** and the **GLORY BE TO THE FATHER** were not then part of the Rosary.
3. The **Mysteries of the Rosary**...The fifteen mysteries in use today were officially established by Pope Pius V in 1569.
4. There was **no pendent** (the cross and five extra beads) as we have now.
5. The very word "**Rosary**" taken from the Latin word "*rosarium*" meaning rose garden, or bouquet of roses, was not used in the time of Dominic as applied to this devotion.⁷⁵¹

Thus, the rosary as it now exists was not an original tradition as it did not come into being until well over a thousand years after the last of the original apostles died.

Catholic saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Monfort essentially wrote that Alan de la Roche claims that he saw Dominic in a dream, that in 1214 Dominic had seen a “Lady” after he had beat himself into a coma, that the use of the rosary was sort of lost, but that Alan de la Roche later reintroduced it.⁷⁵²

Even presuming he is correct, it should be abundantly clear that the rosary was NEITHER from the Bible nor an apostolic tradition. The rosary and the current “Hail Mary” were late innovations.

Based upon Catholic teachings about the origin of the rosary, it apparently came from either someone in a coma (when the modern “Hail Mary” was not part of the rosary) or later from one who was delusional (and had other problems as well). How can anyone claim that the “Lady of the Rosary” could possibly be Mary, mother of Jesus?

While Catholics tend to believe that the expression, “Hail Mary, full of grace,” is straight from the Bible, that is not literally correct. More literal translations of that portion of scripture would be: 'Rejoice, you who enjoy...favour! (Luke 1:28, NJB) Rejoice, highly favored one (Luke 1:28, NKJV)

Also, the Bible (DRB, NJB, NKJV) never calls Mary “holy” as the Hail Mary prayer does.[iii]

When the Fatima apparition appeared on May 13, and then July 13, 1917, Lúcia claimed that it said:

Pray the Rosary every day, in order to obtain peace for the world, and the end of war.⁷⁵³

...pray the Rosary every day in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order to obtain peace for the world, because only she can help you.⁷⁵⁴

The idea that only the Lady of the Rosary could help the children leaves God completely out of the picture and makes the Lady more powerful than God. This is not theologically proper. It is blasphemous.

Brown Scapular: Does it Contradict Catholic Dogma?

Lúcia claimed, "*The Rosary and Scapular are inseparable.*"⁷⁵⁵

A brown scapular originally was a wool object that sometimes comes in the form of metals instead. It seems to be worn like a medallion. "Sister Lúcia has said all Catholics should wear the Brown Scapular as part of the Fatima message."⁷⁵⁶

Supposedly, when the apparition appeared on October 13, 1917, Lúcia, Francisco, and Jacinta saw her hold a brown scapular in her hand.⁷⁵⁷ "At the end of the 40s...Lúcia... recalled that the Blessed Virgin...wished that devotion of the holy Scapular be propagated."⁷⁵⁸

Of course, if Mary actually wanted this, it seems odd that it took Lúcia decades to tell this to anybody.

"The Brown Scapular is part of a religious habit belonging in its own right to the Carmelite order. Devotion for the Scapular of Our Lady of Carmel was born in the 13th century when after being purchased from Palestine by the Saracens, the Carmelite brothers encountered great difficulties in getting established in Europe and elsewhere... Simon Stock, elected Prior General of the order in 1247, had, a few years later an apparition...presenting the Scapular to him as a sign of salvation for his brothers."⁷⁵⁹

Simon Stock's original name was Simon Anglus (the surname Stock was added after his death), and his feast day is May 16th.⁷⁶⁰

An apparition the Catholic "saint" Simon Stock thought was Mary told him the following about the brown scapular, "*Whosoever dies clothed in this shall never suffer eternal fire.*"⁷⁶¹

It is important to realize that this is absolutely contrary to scripture as there is nothing in the Bible that hints that being clothed in some physical way pays the penalty for sin or in any way provides salvation.

Should one who eliminates any part of Catholic dogma be considered as a Catholic saint? Specifically, Simon Stock's apparition (which could not have been Mary) indicates that one can sin and not suffer the flames of eternal torment if they die wearing a scapular. Obviously, any who believe his claims about the scapular must accept that repentance (which the Bible requires for salvation, Acts 2:38) or confession (as understood by the Church of Rome) is not necessary.

I should perhaps add that a Catholic woman, who owns some scapulars, specifically told me that Catholics should not wear the scapular as a "good luck charm" and that repentance is necessary for salvation for humans. And she is right about that.

Catholics who accept Simon Stock as a saint should ask themselves if he was correct, why Catholic dogma would teach the following (**bolding** in original):

The Sacramental confession of sins is ordained by God and is necessary for salvation. (*De fide.*)⁷⁶²

The fact that Simon Stock stated that all one had to do was to die while wearing a scapular, to avoid the punishment "capital sins" is opposed to Catholic dogma.⁷⁶³ Neither

the wearing of a scapular nor the recitation of the rosary is even listed as part of Catholic dogma in *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*.⁷⁶⁴

The fact that Lúcia endorsed the scapular, as well as the rosary, should also show all that her “private revelations” were beyond scripture and Catholic dogma as well.

According to Priest Gobbi, on February 26, 1991, another apparition claimed:

The scapular and the rosary are...a simple means by which God helps His children. Wear it always.⁷⁶⁵

Yet, the Bible nowhere mentions either of these (actually, sewing certain religious items on clothing seems to be condemned, cf. Ezekiel 13:18-20, NJB/NKJV). If this was something that God *wanted* done, would He have not simply mentioned it in His word?

Therefore, it should be abundantly clear that the scapular is NEITHER from the Bible nor an apostolic tradition. The scapular was an innovation, and its innovator contradicted both the Bible and Catholic dogma.

More Conflicts About the Messages and the Rosary

Yet, Priest Nicholas Gruner wrote (**bolding** in source):

Knowledge of the Third Secret Will Save Souls!

She wants us to have the Secret so we can save our souls.⁷⁶⁶

Our Lady said at Fatima, on July 13th, “Only I can help you.” For the purists who want the exact words of Our Lady, She was speaking in the third person, and... She said, “Only Our Lady of the Rosary can help you.”

Some Protestants and some Catholics, and even conservative Catholics say that this somehow seems close to blasphemy...⁷⁶⁷

I would state that those statements were not just close to blasphemy, but were blasphemous. Hence, they did not come from Mary, mother of Jesus. Also, do Catholics believe that none of the popes (since at least 1960) have wanted souls to be saved so they did not reveal a portion of the third secret, as that seems to be what Priest Gruner is implying? The popes likely knew about the short skirt.

In 1957, Lúcia told Priest Augustin Fuentes (**bolding mine**):

She said to my cousins as well as to myself, that God is giving two last remedies to the world. They are the Holy Rosary and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. These are the last two remedies which signify that there will be no others...There is no problem I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary. **With the Holy Rosary, we will save ourselves.**⁷⁶⁸

The above is in conflict with sacred scripture. The Bible says that people need to call on God and repent, and that is NOT the same thing as repeating memorized prayers. The Bible is also clear that we cannot save ourselves through our own efforts:

8 For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, for it is the gift of God; 9 Not of works, that no man may glory. (Ephesians 2:8-9, DRB)

There is no work one can do and certainly no item that one can wear, or any repeating of memorized prayers that can provide salvation. Lúcia (as well as Simon Stock on the scapular) is in clear contradiction of scripture here and was teaching blasphemy.

But Aren't the Rosary and Brown Scapular Traditions?

Neither the rosary nor scapular, both dating no earlier than the 13th century for the Church of Rome, were a part of the apostolic faith held by the “original” CATHOLIC CHURCH.⁷⁶⁹ (Nor was the “green scapular” which seemingly came from an apparition in 1830.⁷⁷⁰)

In 451, Pope “Saint Leo the Great” wrote:

I venture with greater confidence to stir up your piety...**dissent in even a single word from the teachings of the gospels and apostles is forbidden**, as is any opinion on holy scripture that differs from what the blessed apostles and our fathers learnt and taught...⁷⁷¹

Priest Nicolas Gruner wrote:

The Church is Catholic...because it's universal in time. It's the same Faith, the same practices, from the time of Christ to the end of time.⁷⁷²

If the CATHOLIC CHURCH has not changed, then (amongst other things) those who are truly part of the original one have not adopted either the practices of the rosary nor the brown scapular for salvation as most Fatimists advocate. Despite writing the above, Priest Gruner (in the same article) wrote:

We must pray the Rosary. That is central to Our Lady's Message. As Our Lady of Fatima said so eloquently, "Only Our Lady of the Rosary can help you."⁷⁷³

While the rosary and brown scapular *became* traditions for many Catholics, one needs to understand that the role of tradition is also not to be in conflict with scripture.

The Catholic Encyclopedia teaches the following:

In the hands of masters Scripture may become a sharp defensive and offensive weapon against error and heresy. **When a controversy rises recourse is had first to the Bible.**⁷⁷⁴

The Catholic and Orthodox Saint Irenaeus wrote in the second century about why the Gnostic Valentinians should not be believed:

1. Such, then, is their system, which neither the prophets announced, nor the Lord taught, nor the apostles delivered, but of which they boast that beyond all others they have a perfect knowledge. **They gather their views from other sources than the Scriptures...**they succeed in deluding many through their wicked art in adapting the oracles of the Lord to their opinions.⁷⁷⁵

1. When, however, they are confuted from the Scriptures, they turn round and accuse these same Scriptures, as if they were not correct, nor of authority, and [assert] that they are ambiguous, and that the truth cannot be extracted from them by those who are ignorant of tradition. For [they allege] that the truth was not delivered by means

of written documents, but viva voce: wherefore also Paul declared, "But we speak wisdom among those that are perfect, but not the wisdom of this world."⁷⁷⁶

So it appears that Irenaeus properly taught that sacred scripture needed to be listened to and had priority of any traditions. It is by scripture that the veracity of apparitions needs to be judged.

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy,

15...thou has known the Holy Scriptures which can instruct thee to salvation, by the faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture, inspired of God, is profitable to teach, to reprove, to correct, to instruct in justice, 17 That the man of God may be perfect, furnished to every good work. (2 Timothy 3:15-17, DRB)

It should be noted that Paul referred to the scriptures as "holy" (*hieros* in the original Greek, meaning sacred) a term never used in the Bible to refer to tradition. There is another Greek term, *hagios*, that is also translated as "holy" in the Bible that possibly can also mean sacred. It is also used to denote scriptures as holy (Romans 1:2) as well as what God's prophets taught (Luke 1:70; Acts 3:21; 2 Peter 3:2)--which was written down in scripture (e.g. John 10:35; Acts 13:40-41; Acts 28:25-27; Romans 16:26; 2 Peter 1:20; Revelation 22:7, 18-19).

Notice also:

29 But Peter and the apostles answering, said: We ought to obey God, rather than men. (Acts 5:29, DRB)

So Peter and the other apostles would not accept the advice of religious leaders if it went against obeying something taught by God.

And while Saint Paul endorsed traditions from the Apostles (2 Thessalonians 2:14), he warned against traditions of men:

8 Beware lest any man cheat you by philosophy, and vain deceit; according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ: (Colossians 2:8, DRB)

Notice what Priest Gruner wrote and had published in 2006:

Obviously, teaching a doctrine different from the one that was taught by Christ through the Apostles is bad for you.⁷⁷⁷

The rosary, the brown scapular, and other icons were not used by any of Christ's Apostles. Nor were they at all of any importance in salvation. So, by even Priest Gruner's definitions, it seems he is suggesting that they may not be good for you.

Jesus Himself taught that traditions are not supposed to be in conflict with scripture:

2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the ancients? For they wash not their hands when they eat bread. 3 But he answering, said to them: Why do you also transgress the commandment of God for your tradition? For God said: 4 Honour thy father and mother: And: He that shall curse father or mother, let him die the death. 5 But you say: Whosoever shall say to father or mother,

The gift whatsoever proceedeth from me, shall profit thee. 6 And he shall not honour his father or his mother: and **you have made void the commandment of God for your tradition.** 7

Hypocrites, well hath Isaias prophesied of you, saying: 8 This people honoureth me with their lips: but their heart is far from me. 9 And in vain do they worship me, teaching doctrines and commandments of men. (Matthew 15:2-9, DRB)

7 And in vain to they worship me, teaching doctrines and precepts of men. 8 For leaving the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men, the washing of pots and of cups: and many other things you do like to these. 9 And he said to them: Well **do you make void the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition.** (Mark 7:7-9, DRB)

It is not that there never is a place for tradition, but tradition that is in conflict with sacred scripture should not be embraced or taught by faithful Christians. Many teachings associated with the rosary and the brown scapular are in conflict with apostolic tradition.

Pilgrim and Other Statues

In 1920 an order was placed for a graven statue:

13.5.20: Gilberto Fernandes dos Santos from Torres Novas, orders a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which is made by José Thedim and delivered to Fatima. On 13.6.20 it is placed in the Capelinha... It is made of wood, Brazilian cedar, and measures 1.10 meters... On 13th May 1946 it was solemnly crowned by Papal Legate, Cardinal Masella.

**Although when the ...{apparition originally}
appeared to the children She was not wearing a
crown...⁷⁷⁸**

Capelinha is Portuguese for "little chapel." "In Fatima, *Capelinha* almost always refers to the *Capelinha das Aparições*, the Chapel of the Apparitions."⁷⁷⁹

It has been reported that there are weeping and bleeding statues of the Lady of Fatima. Many people, including *some* of the Catholic clergy,⁷⁸⁰ have indicated that these types of occurrences are proof that the apparitions are Mary sent by God to the earth.

Now here is another shock--since I have no reason to doubt *all* the reports of weeping and/or bleeding Fatima statues, and since none of the statues that reportedly have wept look like the apparition that was originally described as appearing to the three children in Fatima in 1917, there is no way that the weeping and/or bleeding is proof that they are from God. That would be confusion. According to the Holy Bible, "God is not the author of confusion" (1 Corinthians 14:33, NKJV) or "God is a God not of disorder (NJB)", but the devil "is a liar, and the father thereof" (John 8:44, DRB).

Therefore, weeping and/or bleeding statues are further proof that the apparition seen at Fatima was not Mary sent by the God of the Bible, but instead suggest a demonic origin:

"Let them be all confounded that adore graven things" (Psalm 96:7, DRB; Psalm 97:7 is where the equivalent reference is in NJB/NKJV).



Statues for Sale, Valinhos/Fatima (2011)

This includes statues and images that are supposed to be of Mary. And of course, the “Pilgrim Statues” in Fatima do not resemble what was seen there.

Notice what the Bible shows:

14...every artist is confounded in his graven idol: for what he hath cast is false... 15 They are vain things and a ridiculous work: in the time of their visitation they shall perish. (Jeremiah 10:14b-15, DRB)

29 ‘Since we are the children of God, we have no excuse for thinking that the deity looks like anything in gold, silver or stone that has been carved and designed by a man. (Acts 17:29, NJB)

4...we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no God but one. (1 Corinthians 8:4, DRB)

Alfred W. Hunt III wrote:

The Judeo-Christian heritage, which characteristically has been *word*-dependent, is contrasted with paganism, which typically has been *image*-dependent...the *image* has supplanted

the *word*, inciting pagan forms to resurface. I suggest that the emergence of postmodernism is actually a by-product of two tandem occurrences — the rapid rise of the image and the denunciation of objectivity exemplified in the death throes of modernism.⁷⁸¹

Why quote this book about Fatima?

Because at the end, images (including possibly animated ones) will apparently be more important to many than what this book and the word of God teach (Revelation 13:4, 8, 13-15).

I expect a lack of objectivity towards this book by those who are more comfortable with images that they see than the faithful objective (from a real Christian perspective) teachings of the Bible.

When the Harlot "Lady" Falls, Will Satan Tell Some of the Truth?

The Bible shows that the time will come that those of compromised Rome (Zephaniah 2:15; 3:1-5) who apparently made some type of deals with various world leaders (cf. Revelation 17:4-5) will be betrayed by ten Beast-supporting leaders (Revelation 17:15-18).

Interestingly, a Catholic mystic reported about something that possibly may happen around this time:

Bernadine Von Busto (died 1490): Satan...will cause a voice to come from the crucifix saying "...I am not God nor the savior but a sorcerer, an instigator and deceiver of the people...the greatest sorcerer the world has ever seen..." Also the pictures of the Mother of God at times will speak when someone will be praying before them: "Cease your supplications. I am not the Mother of God. I have no power with God. I am only a miserable

creature...’ It will be the same with the pictures of the Saints. That it is the devil who speaks from the crucifixes and pictures...⁷⁸²

And if the above happens, while Satan would be telling some of the truth (he is, after all, capable of even quoting scripture per Matthew 4), he may be doing this to get people to support the final battle that is staged at Armageddon (Revelation 16:13-16). And no Christian would want to be part of this, nor should they want to ask Mary to intercede for them.

The Idea of Mary Being Co-Redemptrix or Intercessor is Neither from Sacred Scripture or Apostolic Tradition

Mark Miravalle, a professor of theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville, wrote:

Let us pray daily for the solemn definition of Our Lady’s spiritual motherhood as co-redemptrix, mediatrix of all graces, and advocate, which truly reveal the saving actions of motherly intercession which come forth from her Immaculate Heart, and thus to bring the Church and the world a giant step closer to the Fatima-prophesied “Era of Peace.”⁷⁸³

Yet, there is nothing in scripture about Mary bringing in an era of peace or being our intercessor—the only intercessor listed in the Bible is Christ (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)—the Bible says He is the “one mediator” (1 Timothy 2:5, DRB). The Bible shows that we are only to call upon the name of the Lord/God/Jesus (2 Timothy 2:22; Romans 10:12-13; Acts 26:20)—never Mary.

Now it is true that certain Catholic prophecy tells of a time of “peace” when the Great Monarch and Angelic Pastor conquer the English peoples, eliminate Islam, assail other religions, and have a short reign of about 3 ½ years.⁷⁸⁴

Yet this is not good as even the Catholic saint Augustine warned, "Antichrist shall fiercely...assail the Church...three years and a half."⁷⁸⁵

Furthermore, on the proposed co-redemptrix (or co-mediatrix) title for Mary, Cardinal Bertone wrote:

One of the main ideas of Sister Lúcia's book (which, I should add, she presents in a very somber fashion) is that the Church ought to acknowledge Mary as the "Co-redemptrix" of humanity...Both the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith and the Pontifical International Marian Academy had already raised some critical points about the idea of "co-redemption."⁷⁸⁶

Thus, Catholics should realize that there are major concerns about using that title within the Vatican.

From isle of Ireland, Dr. Douglas Winnail wrote:

In the last century, apparitions and their supporters have promoted Mary as the "Mediatrix of All Mercies" (thus diminishing Jesus Christ's true role as revealed in the Bible), and as the "Queen of Peace," though the Bible never refers to her this way.⁷⁸⁷

The *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma* states in its section about Mary being the Mediatrix, "Express scriptural proofs are lacking."⁷⁸⁸

Thus, Catholics who do not wish to deviate from what the Bible teaches would do well not to promote non-biblical titles and attributes to Mary. Furthermore, the *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma* teaches:

The mystical interpretation...became prominent in the West in the late Middle Ages...Express testimonies, though few in number, to Mary's

position as mediatrix of grace are found since the eighth century.⁷⁸⁹

Notice that calling Mary the mediatrix of grace was not from the Bible yet was espoused by few, and that no one really started promoting it until the 8th century. Surely this shows that it WAS NOT a belief of the early church. The fact that Lúcia wanted it promoted surely shows that she was not keeping with the teachings of the Bible nor the practices of the early church.

Bishop Kennedy of the Celtic Orthodox Church wrote:

The great deceiver of Fatima promises salvation to those who embrace devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary... We can be very certain that God did not send Mary to earth to change God's eternal plan of salvation. It is just this kind of deceit that leads to other false statements about Mary; Mediatrix of all graces etc. The devil's deceit is felt far and wide within the Church as is evidenced in the number of well meaning but deceived souls proclaiming Mary is Mediatrix of all graces. How would have such a statement sounded to the Apostles? This salvation we enjoy is from God in Christ; "The man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as ransom for all". (1 Timothy 2:1, 3-6 NAB)... We should STOP THE DEVIL in his tracks and proclaim the vision of Fatima to be a fraud, a work of the devil and an abomination to God, Mary and to the Church.⁷⁹⁰

Yet, many who believe that she saw Mary of the Bible in Fatima seem to overlook the fact that Lúcia continually promoted positions contrary to the Bible and the early church.

Notice another rather bizarre claim made by a different apparition, one in Tre Fontane (1947):

I am she who is in the Divine Trinity; I am the Virgin of Revelation.⁷⁹¹

Messages like the above are very misleading and false, yet various presumed Marian apparitions have made improper statements about the Godhead (1 John 4:1-3). Also, the term "Virgin" (singular) is not in either the DRB, NJB, or NKJV translations anywhere in the Book of Revelation. Epiphanius correctly wrote, "Mary... is not God...she was not given us to worship...some might stumble into excessive awe of the saint."⁷⁹²

Regarding the Trinity claim, notice the following about the goddess Diana:

Diana was originally an Italian goddess...She became closely associated with two other deities, and together they formed a trinity...She often wears a short tunic that seductively exposes her legs...In alchemy she represented the conjunction... of the moon and the sun...she was linked to... black magic and witchcraft...her "shining" persona Lucina was divided from its opposite, darkness, to produce Lucifer, the devil.⁷⁹³

Mary of the Bible would not have made the false Trinitarian claim, yet demonic apparitions which sometimes promote pagan goddess worship would. Diana, by the way, has ties to Venus,⁷⁹⁴ who is also called the Stella Matutina. And it was apparently the Stella Matutina through backwards "automatic writing" who gave a message that predicted illumination that would happen on May 13, 1917, which was the first appearance of the Lady at Fatima.⁷⁹⁵ Such illumination was Satanic.

There also is a Catholic prophecy that indicates that followers/images of Mary will do miracles at the end:

Ven. Magdalene Porzat (19th century): Mary comes from heaven...After this Mary, all powerful shall change all men...Holy women, images of Mary, shall have power to work miracles. After them comes Mary to prepare the way for her Son in His triumphant Church.⁷⁹⁶

Thus, this is another possible item that may be the “image of the Beast.” Perhaps it should be mentioned that according to the above mystic, this prophecy happens after a time of “universal bankruptcy” and “confusion.”⁷⁹⁷ Thus, if the international financial situation worsens (maybe if only a little bit, though probably more than that), some may point to that as proof that certain Marion prophecies are correct. Do not be deceived by such signs (Isaiah 8:19-20), even if true (cf. Deuteronomy 13:1-4) — many will be (Mark 13:22).

Do not accept misstatements about apparitions, women from heaven (Zechariah 5:5-11), rosaries, mediators, intercessors, or scapulars that are in conflict with sacred scripture.

Religious deception, in a more direct and public form, is coming. Signs, “lying wonders,” and sorceries are expected to increase before Jesus returns and deceive many (2 Thessalonians 2:9; Matthew 24:24; Revelation 13:2-15; 18:23).

A condemned woman, who acts improperly seductively (cf. Revelation 17:1-4; 2:20), is expected to utilize enchantments/enchanters and sorceries according to sacred scripture (Isaiah 47:1-12; Revelation 18:23).

The shocking truth about Fatima is that misunderstanding the Fatima apparitions will apparently make people more susceptible to this coming deception. Christians are not to be ignorant of Satan's devices (2 Corinthians 2:11) and those who take the biblical messages in Fatima Shock! seriously enough should not be.

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