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# IDENTIFYING THE FALSE PROPHET

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In Revelation 16:13, under the Apocalyptic symbol of the pouring out of the 6<sup>th</sup> Vial we have the Apostle John's vision of "three unclean spirits". Regarding these three unclean spirits it is stated, "*And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*"

Believing that we are very near to Christ's return and to that prophesied "*battle of that great day of God Almighty*" (identified as *Armageddon* in verse 16 – i.e., "*heap of sheaves in the valley of judgment*"), the symbols found in this passage are of current relevance to us as we look with extreme attention at the signs we see in the political heavens that indicate to us the nearness of our Master's return and the pouring out of Divine and unfettered judgments upon the nations of the earth. In this verse 16 we have reference made to three primary political players that are responsible for influencing the nations in preparation for this great Battle against the will of Deity – the *dragon*, the *beast* and the *false prophet*.

## Frog Spirits, The Dragon, & The Beast

It is not our intention to deal in depth with the frog like spirits or with the identity of the Dragon or the Beast – our primary focus is on the identification of the False Prophet. But to briefly review:

- **Frog Spirits** - It has long been held within the Christadelphian community that the three frog spirits, symbols which originally represented the French people, came to characterize the democratic/socialistic influences that arose out of the French Revolution. The cry of *Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity* is a doctrine that changed not only France but changed the face of Europe both **politically** and **ecclesiastically** and is a powerful, humanistic and "unclean" influence that is stronger than ever.
- **The "dragon"** - was an historical and prophetic symbol of the Roman power and eventually of the military or eastern division of the Roman Empire with its headquarters in Constantinople. It is understood that Russia (with a domineering presence over eastern/southeastern Europe and parts of Asia) will play the latter day role of the "dragon", with a controlling influence and probable occupation of Constantinople/Istanbul previous to its invasion of the Land of Israel.
- **The "beast"** – There are two "beasts" mentioned in the Apocalypse (chapter 13) – one being the "beast of the sea" the other "the beast of the earth". Based upon verse 10 the context is of the Beast of the Earth which in the past related to the Holy Roman Empire and for the present day relates to those nations of central/western Europe.

## "The False Prophet"

Christadelphians have long believed that the symbol of the False Prophet was an identification of the Papal System. But in recent years there has been a drastic rise in the influence of what is termed as "Militant Islam" on world affairs, which has led some to conclude that the symbol of the False Prophet should be applied to the Islamic element. But at the same time there has also been a dramatic rise in the power and influence of the Papacy, with both Islamic and Papal influences struggling for control over the matter of Jerusalem and the "Holy Land". This may create difficulty as we attempt to come to a conclusion as to the identity of the third frog like influence. It is this writer's conviction that the symbol of "false prophet" as used in the Apocalypse is to be identified with the Catholic influence, but we also understand what may move others to view an Islamic identity – which necessitates this consideration of the subject for review and comparison of the two varying applications.

The scriptures say very little regarding the "False Prophet", though the identification of the plural form "false prophets" is used several times in the Old and New Testament, which helps us to better understand how it is applied in the Apocalypse. The "false prophet" symbol is used three times with all of them in the closing chapters of Revelation (16:13; 19:20; 20:10). But in the context of Revelation it is important to note that as a book of signs and symbols it is a book that reveals events down through the ages since 96 A.D. that are of relevance to the believers. The believers are warned of and shown the development, fortunes and misfortunes and eventual destruction of the Apostate System that would arise out of the true Ecclesia and became the primary antagonist of the True Believers.

In contrast to this the believer is given a wonderful view of the Divine manifestation to come and the reward reserved to them “who overcometh” - those who remain true to the One Hope. These are the overriding themes of the Apocalyptic message and provide the foundation as to how we understand the subject at hand. Other critical prophetic matters, for example that of national Israel’s scattering and return, find detailed and lengthy explanation in other portions of the Scriptures.

### **The role of a prophet and of a false prophet**

In 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:3 we read, “*he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*” A prophet is not necessarily one who foretells the future but can apply to one who speaks of Truth in general as a teacher for the *edification, exhortation and comfort* of the believers.

In contrast to a good prophet the Apostle Peter warned the believers, “*there were false prophets among the people (Israel), even there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction*” (2<sup>nd</sup> Pet. 2:1). Peter, along with Paul and John, spoke of a false religious system that would arise out the true Ecclesia itself. The Spirit through Paul referred to this “falling away” as the “*mystery of iniquity*” (2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. 2) that was already beginning to develop during the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Paul also foresaw that “*the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*” (2<sup>nd</sup> Tim. 4:3) 1st John 4:1 warns the believers to not be naïve but to “*try the spirits, whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*” Before the work of the apostles began Christ himself warned of such influences – “*For there shall arise false Christ’s, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if possible they shall deceive the very elect.*” And in Matt. 7:15 – “*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves*”. It is important to realize that such “false prophets” that they were being warned of were those who originated from out of the Ecclesia – pretending to be harmless but in fact just the opposite. Christ and the Apostles warned of the need for great spiritual discernment in order to see the more deceitful influences that would arise from out of the Household.

In the history of Israel the false prophets arising from the people played a devastating role on the spiritual understanding and health of the nation eventually leading both Israel and Judah astray. It was the advice of the false prophets (“a lying spirit”, 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 22:22) that influenced Ahab to go up against the king of Syria - to his own death and utter defeat of the Israeli armies. Hananiah is another example of the influence of the false prophets (Jer. 28), who influenced the court of Zedekiah and opposed the truths that Jeremiah spoke. As Jeremiah stated to Hananiah – “*The LORD hath not sent thee; but thou makes this people to trust in a lie.*” Such false prophets claimed to speak the word of God but did nothing more than speak to the people what they wanted to hear. As God proclaimed – “*The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and My People love to have it so...*” (Jer. 5:31).

Before we move on it is important to emphasize that the influences of false prophets on both national Israel and the early Ecclesia were ones that originated out of the Body of Believers, pretending to be the voice of God when in fact they were nothing more than peddlers of deceit. It is with this in mind that we need to look closely as to where this line of falsehood led and what developed from the early Ecclesia.

### **Development of the False Prophet**

In his grave warning of the apostasy to come in 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2, the apostle Paul referred to the revealing of “that man of sin”, “the son of perdition”. It is interesting to note that the word “perdition” (Greek – *apoleia*) is defined by Strong’s Concordance, “From a presumed derivative of G622; *ruin or loss* (physical, spiritual, eternal)”. Webster’s Dictionary (1828 Edition) defines the word as “*entire loss or ruin*”. In referring to the development of apostasy from the Truth it was recognized that as a *son of perdition* this *man of sin* would be a system of belief that would be a corrupted and destroyed version of the One True Faith.

This corruption of the Ecclesia, as brought about by the false teachings of her professed friends, is well documented throughout history and more importantly in the prophetic writings of Scripture. We read in Acts 11:26 that the disciples “*were called Christians first in Antioch*”, but due to the corrupt form that Christianity would take on true believers are extremely hesitant to fully identify themselves as “Christian” due to the false meaning and identification it now has. The name has been completely corrupted from its original implications.

The books of Daniel and the Apocalypse give us the most detailed documentation of the rise of this Apostate system of worship; a mixed, illegitimate system that arose out of the early Ecclesia, and with great irony melded into and took on the political, military, and even many pagan religious aspects of the Roman System it once was at enmity with. With the rise and victory of Constantine in the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D, an already severely compromised form of

Christianity once persecuted by Roman authority was thrust into a position of unrestricted acceptance and influence (Rev. 12). This we know came known to be the Catholic (or “universal”) Church.

The rise of Catholicism and the Papacy did not stop with mere acceptance. Around 550 A.D. the Emperor Justinian issued the “Pragmatic Sanction” giving the Bishop of Rome (or Pope) control of Municipal and Provincial Governments and in 606 A.D. the Emperor Phocas made an official decree establishing the Bishop of Rome as the “Universal Bishop” of the Catholic religion. The Pope would oversee not only a religious empire but one of material and political might. A period of 1,260 years was prophesied regarding this power’s ability to persecute the saints during its time of absolute religious and political domination over “Christian” territories. (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:5). When the time period came to a close in the 1860’s the Pope had been stripped of all temporal power and basically became a prisoner within the walls of the Vatican. But this was not the end of the Papacy and we have seen a strong and remarkable rise in its religious and political influence in the last few decades.

### A New Period

The Scriptures identify the rise and continuance of the Catholic/Papal system through history with various symbols and detail given. In Daniel 7 it is introduced coming out of the 4<sup>th</sup> Beast (Roman) of Daniel’s vision as a “little horn” having eyes and a mouth speaking blasphemous things concerning God. Revelation 12 refers to the work of Constantine and the transfer of the dragon symbol from Pagan Rome to the new religious power that would take on the Roman characteristics. Revelation 13 refers to the “beast of the sea” that would develop out of the Roman Empire, with connection to the four beast elements found in Daniel 7, as well as the blasphemous characteristics of the “little horn” with eyes and a mouth. Revelation 13 also makes reference to the “beast of the earth” which represented the formation of the Holy Roman Empire as a protectorate and enforcer of the “Image of the Beast” or the Papal system.

Though temporal power has been taken away and the Holy Roman Empire has collapsed, the Papal system still stands (as it always has) as a teacher of great deception and falsehood – in other words a false prophet or teacher. Not only deceiving its followers but the world and its “Christian” daughters as well. Though claiming to be “Christian” in nature, scriptural Truth witnesses just the opposite. It is therefore most fitting, especially since 1870, that this blasphemous system would be symbolized in Biblical terms as **the False Prophet**. The Papacy no longer has power over temporal dominions (except for a few acres inside Rome, known as the Vatican City) but continues to act as a mouthpiece or voice of abominations that deceive while claiming to be God’s representative (“Vicar of Christ) on earth. It is interesting to note that when a new Pope is coronated these words are spoken when the crown is placed on his head – *“Receive this tiara adorned with three crowns; know that thou art the father of princes and kings, victor of the whole world under the earth, the vicar of our Lord, Jesus Christ”*.

False Teaching/Prophecy	
• 124	Immortality of the Soul
• 325	The Trinity
• 375	Veneration of angels and dead Saints
• 431	The worship of Mary
• 593	Doctrine of Purgatory
• 600	Prayer directed to Mary
• 788	Worship of relics
• 1079	Celibacy of the priesthood
• 1215	Dogma of Transubstantiation
• 1229	Bible forbidden to laymen
• 1585	Jesuit Francisco Ribera promotes “Futurism” view of the Apocalypse
• 1834	Immaculate Conception
• 1870	Dogma of Papal infallibility
• 1950	Assumption of Mary to heaven.
• 1996	Pope endorses Evolution

Even though the Papacy no longer has the same level of power, it teaches and influences with a self appointed authority that makes the world stop and listen. In 1870 when Papal dominion was coming to an end, out of prideful indignation Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of Papal Infallibility. Considering the long list of falsehood that has been introduced into Christianity by this system and its popes such is obviously an incredible claim. But such is only further confirmation of its identification as the False Prophet System. With real dominion all but stripped away from the Papal system the term False Prophet is a most fitting description of it in this current age as it continues to influence and deceive the nations – even having an official position in the United Nations.

As a voice piece for the frog like spirits, during this time period of human history the Papacy has also had to change with the times to stay relevant to current world attitudes. During its 1,260 year period as the “Beast of the Earth” and the “Image of the Beast” (Rev. 13) it had no concern for the frog like concepts of *Liberty, Equality* and *Fraternity* and did everything possible to oppress any thoughts or actions that were opposed to the Church’s beliefs and interests. In a major turnabout to stay relevant with the times, in recent decades (especially under the work of Pope John Paul II) the Catholic Church took on the mantle as a champion for human rights. *Spiegel Online* (March

15, 2005) made the interesting observation – “*The Vatican -- once a resolute foe of human rights, but nowadays all too willing to become involved in European politics*”. And as was observed by a report from the Catholic Bishops conference of England and Wales (1998) “*human rights have become central to the Church's mission in the world.*” The same report goes on to give a list of specific rights including (and we are only providing a small sample) – “*freedom to investigate the truth, and freedom of speech and publication; freedom to pursue a choice of career; the right to receive a good general education; the right not only to be given the opportunity to work but also to enjoy the exercise of personal initiative in that work; the right to a just wage; the right to the private ownership of property including that of productive goods; the right to meet together with others and to form associations; the right to freedom of movement; and the right to take an active part in public life, and to make a contribution to the common welfare.*” (emphasis added)



John Paul II, a champion for “human rights”

Fundamentally, little has changed regarding the religious views and self-centeredness of the Catholic system but this new facade has allowed “The Church” (as it calls itself) to be perceived as more in tune and sympathetic with the needs of the people in these modern times, which feeds the humanistic tendencies of present world attitudes. As we learn from the scriptural examples of false prophets, the False Prophet is willing to tell the people what they want to hear in order to preserve a place of acceptance and continued influence, while at the same time claiming Divine authority to speak and teach what it does.

### What about Islam?

The main thrust of argument that we have seen that promotes the belief of an Islamic identification of the False Prophet centers around the fact that Mahomet is referred to as “The Prophet” by his followers. Knowing that he certainly was not a true prophet of God, and considering the apparent impact that Islam is having on the world scene, especially in relation to a united hatred for Israel, some make a direct link between Islam and the False Prophet symbol. There is a certain degree of logic and plausibility on the surface, but when the nature of the False Prophet religious system is considered in its entire scriptural context then there is no real Biblical basis for such a conclusion.

There is no question that the Islamic religion is playing a high profile role in world events as we speak and truly it is a false religion, but it is not the only false world religion either. Mahomet established Islam in 622 A.D. and with this in mind it is extremely important to realize that Islam did not originate out of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Ecclesia and therefore was not a “false prophet” element that would arise out of the Ecclesia and lead people astray; **it did not have a hand in distorting and apostatizing the One True Faith.** Catholicism came out of the True Ecclesia, and in fact claims to be the one original “Christian” church based on Peter as its foundation. (This lends to it as also being identified as a “Harlot” in Revelation 17 – yet another appropriate symbol to identify and give further detail and perspective to the “mystery of iniquity”.)

In considering further whether or not Islam is the “False Prophet”, if we turn over to Revelation 19:20 we are given more detail to help us understand his identity. There we read of his destruction - “*And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worship his image.*” This is a direct reference to Revelation 13 where the development of the Apostate (Catholic) system and her tell-tale characteristics of identification are given. Connecting Rev. 19:20 with Revelation 13 shows that there is **a clear and unmistakable connection** of the False Prophet to the Apostasy (Catholic System). Linking Revelation 16:13 to the passage here in 19:20, we do not see any possible connection with Islam to the False prophet symbol. (And as a side note, no religious system has wrought fraudulent “miracles” on the scale that Catholicism has claimed and still claims in its attempts to deceive the masses.)



The impact of the rise of Islam and its militant characteristics does find a place in the Prophetic word. In Revelation 9 we see it spoken of as used by God as a punishing and destroying element on both the Eastern and Western portions of the Apostasy. Islam came to be a counter balance and a painful thorn in the side of Catholicism and the Holy Roman Empire for centuries, having a profound effect on the course of history. But though still being a false system it was a system that was violently opposed to Trinitarian doctrine, Mary worship, and the idolatry that characterized the Catholic system – a hatred that continues today.

By no means can we or do we wish to minimize the role of the Islamic religion, or the role that some of the Arab/Islamic nations are playing in current events and will play at Christ’s return. But that does not mean that we can force an interpretation on the symbol of the False Prophet that just does not fit the clues and evidence that the Scriptures themselves give us. It cannot be forgotten that the Catholic System is specially targeted in the Apocalypse

for its blasphemy against God, its adulteration of true Christianity, and its supreme hatred and persecution on Spiritual Israel as well as against the natural Jews. It also cannot be taken for granted that the Catholic system has a remarkable degree of influence over the religious and political world as we speak. The sins of the Catholic Church against the Believers and Jewish people over the centuries are utterly profound, and its crafty political and religious maneuverings and influence against current Jewish interests cannot be ignored; its anti-Israel and humanistic policies (unclean spirits), along with the “dragon” and “beast”, are bringing the world ever closer to the Armageddon that is promised in Revelation 16. **Catholicism is the False Prophet** indeed and we have to be careful not to lose sight of the Scriptural, historical and present day facts that support such an understanding.

It is true that Islamic countries such as Iran and Syria as well as the “Palestinian” people continue to promulgate a savage hatred against Zion and act as “pricking brier” (Ezek. 28:24). There is no question as believers that we are to have a natural and spiritual inclination towards the Israeli/Jewish plight in her struggles with all of her enemies. We are to look with longing expectation when, “*ten men shall take a hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew*”. We can have no doubt that Yahweh through Christ and the immortalized saints will appropriately deal with such nations that “curse” the natural seed of Abraham. Such matters are dealt with in other portions of scriptures, including the destruction of nations such as Iran (Persia) and other “Islamic” nations that will be confederate with the Gogian Host. (Ezek. 38)

The Arab/Islamic neighbors of Israel have had over 50 years to “drive Israel into the sea”. They talk about, and they have attempted it several times, but they have not been able to accomplish it. The time is coming for larger and even more arrogant world players to “think an evil thought” in the attempt to fulfill their desires on the “burdensome stone” that is Jerusalem, and to take care of the Middle Eastern question once and for all – but to their own destruction.

#### **False Prophesying**

Attempting to identify Islam as the False Prophet is nothing new. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica – “*When Islam was founded in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century as a new, higher religion; it considered the revelation received by the Prophet Muhammad to be superior to the former levels of Old and New Testament revelation. Christianity fought Islam as a Christian heresy...this new threat was seen as the fulfillment of the Apocalypse concerning the coming of the False prophet.*” (Emphasis added)

It was the Apostasy who first identified Islam as the “False Prophet”, which is not surprising that they would be very quick to identify the symbol with someone else rather than themselves. **Serious consideration needs to be taken to the fact that identifying Islam as the False Prophet began as a Catholic diversion.**

False prophecy (in reference to prophetic interpretation) has been a long practice within the Apostasy. Early “church fathers” such as Hippolytus (170-236), Irenaeus (120-202), and Cyprian (200-258) taught of a “Futuristic” view of the Apocalypse, pushing the majority of its interpretation to the time around Christ’s return, and taught of a literal interpretation of symbolic time periods – denying the “day for a year principal” as well as promoting the idea of the rise of “The Antichrist” at the time of the end.

The Apostasy continued the practice of clouding or falsifying prophetic interpretation, since so much of it was in fact in reference to them. This was dramatically seen in the formation of the Jesuit sect during the Reformation to defend the honor of the Papacy and to divert attention from the accusations of the rising Protestant movement who were **loudly** and **correctly** pointing the finger at the Catholic Church as the “False Prophet”, “Harlot”, “Man of Sin”, “antichrist system” etc. Efforts by Jesuits such as Ribera, Alcazar, Bellarmine and Lacunza were used to promote teachings that would divert attention away from the Catholic Church. It is interesting to consider that Ribera (who promoted “Futurism” – the view that the majority of the book of Revelation applies to a latter day 3½ time period) and Alcazar (who promoted “Preterism” – the view that the majority of the book of Revelation was fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.) both taught two opposing interpretations of the Apocalypse at about the same time, but since they were both intended to divert attention away from negative application of the Catholic system in the Apocalypse both interpretations were allowed promotion. What confusion; truly the “The Great Catholic Diversion”!

The “Futurism” teachings of the Jesuit Francisco Ribera (1537-1591) were translated and promoted in 1825 by the Scottish Presbyterian Edward Irving (1792-1834) who was the forerunner of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements, and has profoundly influenced the prophetic interpretations of the Protestant/Evangelical movement today. While the more “liberal” branches of Protestantism adopted “Preterism”, it is the conservative elements of the Evangelical movement who have adopted “Futurism”. The views as found in the “Christian” world regarding the rise

of “The Antichrist” who will establish rule in Jerusalem and conquer the world during a 3 ½ year period of “tribulation” can be traced to Ribera’s work. Not only has Catholicism influenced and deceived the “Christian” world regarding doctrine but they have deceived the world on the “*sure word of prophecy*” as well. Catholicism is truly a False Prophet in all aspects of teaching!



Ribera

### The End of the False Prophet

Leading up to the great crisis at the End Time - the Dragon (Russia), the Beast (Europe), and the False Prophet (Catholicism) will be working very closely in their influence to turn the world on Israel. The Dragon and her allies (Ezekiel 38:1-6) – some of which will be Islamic in nature - will be soundly defeated and destroyed “upon the mountains of Israel”. We have already referred to it but we are told later that God’s judgment will then be turned on the “beast and false prophet”: “*And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered to make war against Him That sat on the horse, and against His army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*” (Rev. 19:20,21). And in 20:10 we have further emphasis that both the beast and false prophet as being held in this “lake of fire” “*shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever*” – indicating utter and eternal destruction and death.

The Milestones 2005 yearly update (by Don Pierce, published by the *Christadelphian Scriptures Study Service*) makes the interesting observation as to the subtleties in interpreting the destruction of the “Harlot” as found in the Revelation 18 and the destruction of the “false prophet” in Revelation 19: “We must therefore see a subtle difference between the harlot woman and the false prophet. The Roman Catholic Church has a worldwide network of archbishops, with bishops and priests under them. When Babylon falls as described in ch 18, this will be the destruction of the harlot rider – the Vatican, the Pope and the physical buildings associated with “the Holy Sea”. Although the heart is taken out, the world-wide network of priests will continue to resist, and may have to be rooted out step by step. The “false prophet” will then have come to its end.”

When one considers the horrendous evils that have been committed by the False Prophet for his corruption of the Truth and the horrific injustices he has committed in the name of “Christianity”; as the great enemy of Christ and His ecclesia as well as the enemy of the Jewish people it can be of no mystery as to why this system, with the use of various symbols and detail, is described with such utter disdain by the Spirit Word.

We look forward to that great end when all enemies of Divine Truth are utterly destroyed and the remnant of the world that remains is brought under complete subjection of Christ and the saints. “*He which testifieth these things saith, “Surely I come quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus*”.

A. Thomas

### WHO IS THE FALSE PROPHET?

*“Protestant and papal scribes are in the habit of applying the epithet “false prophet” to Mohammed, and therefore do not perceive its applicability to the Roman bishop. But neither Mohammed, nor his successors, are termed the “false prophet” in the Apocalypse. The Arabian was false enough doubtless; but he was a far more respectable character than any pope that has ever reigned; and were I to choose between the two superstitions, I would rather be a Moslem than a papist. It was the glory of Mohammed to destroy idolatry; it is the infamy of the popes to be the high priests of the “queen of heaven”...The epithet “false prophet” is singularly applicable to the Roman bishop. It is a part of his function to preach or prophesy; that is, to “speak unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.” From him these blessings are supposed to flow to all “his children.” Aaron was given to Moses to be his prophet because he could speak well. As Aaron then, was speaker, mouth, or prophet, or Moses; so the pope is now mouth, or prophet, or speaker, of the papacy, and no more. He is virtually stripped of his dominions; he can prophesy, but his rule is a thing of name, and not a fact. A false prophet is he; truthless as Satan; sporting himself with his own deceivings, and thereby provoking a speedy fate, which is “capture and destruction”.*

-John Thomas, *Herald of the Kingdom and Age to Come*, Volume 1, pp. 73,74  
Also see *Elpis Israel*, pp.388, 389 (Logos Edition)