

# ROME AND POLITICS

## What the Romish Pope Claims for Himself

To this very day the Romish Papacy officially claims for itself rightful possession of the Triple Crown. The signification of this symbol of authority was conveyed in the words that were used when Popes were crowned in the past: “*Accipe tiaram tribus coronis ornatam, et scias te esse patrem principum et regum, rectorem orbis in terra vicarium Salvatoris nostri Jesu Christi, cui est honor et gloria in saecula saeculorum*” (“Receive the tiara adorned with three crowns and know that thou art father of princes and kings, ruler of the world, vicar on earth of our Savior Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever.”) This continuing symbolism of the Papal tiara is reflected in its continuance on the coat of arms of the Holy See and the flag of Vatican City.



## The Church Warned in Scripture

Scripture is not silent about Rome and politics. Here are some of the most pertinent texts on the topic:

“...he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.” (Daniel 7:25)

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God...Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.” (II Thessalonians 2:3-9)

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” (Revelation 13:11-18)

“...the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.” (Revelation 17:1-17)

The Romish Pope is 'the man of sin' Antichrist foretold and warned against in scripture as the one who will claim to be in the place of Christ on earth. His Papal kingdom (what scriptural prophecy refers to as a "beast") is the only one in human history based in the City of Seven Hills (or "mountains"), lasting for centuries, sitting within professing Christendom ("in the temple of God"), and led by one who claims to stand in the place of (what the Greek term "anti" literally means) Christ, deceiving multitudes by his false gospel and worship.

### **The Testimony of the Reformed Confessions**

In its chapter on the civil magistrate, the Westminster Confession says this:

"... Infidelity, or difference in religion, does not make void the magistrates' just and legal authority, nor free the people from their due obedience to them: from which ecclesiastical persons are not exempted, much less has the Pope any power and jurisdiction over them in their dominions, or over any of their people; and, least of all, to deprive them of their dominions, or lives, if he shall judge them to be heretics, or upon any other pretence whatsoever."

In its chapter on the church, the Westminster Confession says this:

"There is no other head of the Church but the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can the Pope of Rome, in any sense, be head thereof; but is that Antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalts himself, in the Church, against Christ and all that is called God."

The Preamble to the *Decrees of Dordt* declared that in Holland "the Church was delivered by the mighty hand of God from the tyranny of the Romish Antichrist and the terrible idolatry of the papacy."

The Belgic Confession also speaks to the issue of Rome, in its reference to the Antichrist:

"We believe that our gracious God, because of the depravity of mankind, has appointed kings, princes and magistrates, willing that the world should be governed by certain laws and policies; to the end that the dissoluteness of men might be restrained and all things carried on among them with good order and decency. For this purpose he has invested the magistracy with the sword, for the punishment of evildoers, and for the protection of them that do well. And their office is, not only to have regard unto, and watch for the welfare of the civil state; but also that they protect the sacred ministry; and thus may remove and prevent all idolatry and false worship; that the kingdom of Antichrist may be thus destroyed and the kingdom of Christ promoted..."

The Protestant Reformers spoke with virtually one voice, identifying the Pope as the great prophesied Antichrist, and warning of his treacherous political machinations.

### **Conclusion**

To be forewarned is to be forearmed! Alliance with Rome, whether in church or politics, is a dangerous game.

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