

## POPE FRANCIS VISITS AMERICA



September 22-27, 2015

**WHO IS THE POPE ?**

## UNIVERSAL POWER OVER THE WHOLE CHURCH / INFALLIBILITY

# Catechism of the Catholic Church



Libreria Editrice Vaticana

**882** ... For the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ [i.e., Christ's substitute] and as pastor of the entire Church, has full, supreme and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered.

**889** In order to preserve the Church in the purity of the faith handed on by the apostles, Christ who is the Truth willed to confer on her a share in his own infallibility ...

**891** The Roman Pontiff, head of the college of bishops, enjoys this infallibility in virtue of his office ...

## THREE CROWNS / RULER OF THE WORLD



Mosaic depicting Pope Clement VIII (1592)  
wearing a tiara with three crowns

- In the coronation of popes including Pius XII on March 12, 1939 the tiara (3 crowns) is placed on the pope's head with the words: "Receive the tiara adorned with three crowns and know that thou art Father of princes and kings, ruler of the world, and Vicar of our Savior Jesus Christ."
- Pope Pius XI in the first radio broadcast from the Vatican in 1931: "Hear, Oh Skies, that which I have to say; let the Earth hear the words of my mouth ... Hear and listen, Oh far away peoples." *Marconi My Beloved*, p. 129.



## “FATHER OF PRINCES AND KINGS”

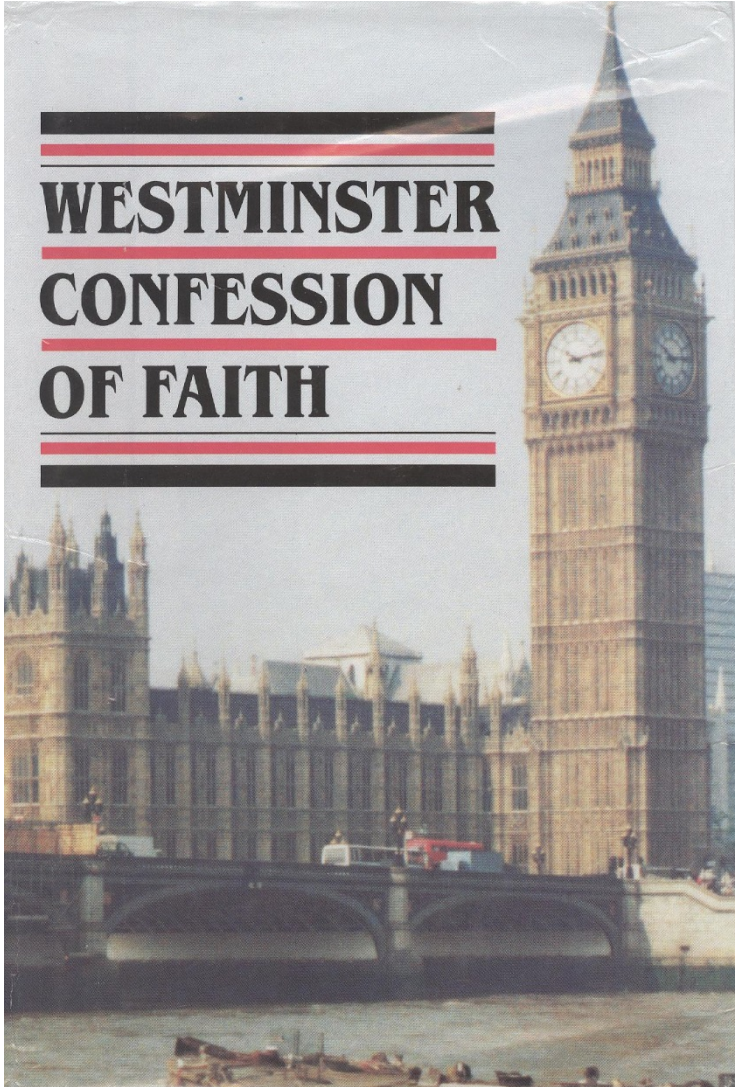


Pope Francis address the US Congress  
(September 24, 2015)



Pope Francis addresses the “largest gathering of presidents and prime ministers ever at the United Nations,” according to the New York Times.  
(September 25, 2015)

## OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH



1646 Westminster Confession of Faith XXV.6 – Of the Church:

“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 exalteth himself, in the Church against Christ and all that is called God.”

1789 American Revision of the Westminster Confession of Faith XXV.6 – Of the Church:

“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.”

**IS THE POPE THE ANTICHRIST, THE MAN OF SIN (2 THESS 2:3) ?**



## A DEFENSE FOR THE 1646 WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

### THE ANTICHRIST

**A Biblical and  
Confessional View**



**Rev. David Silversides**

Who is the “man of sin” in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10?

“Our method of handling this passage must not be guesswork or imposing some random idea from the present state of world affairs.”

“God has given us his word in such a form that if we are proudly determined to find what we want in it, it can be wrested and abused so that we convince ourselves that we have found what we want. This we must avoid at all costs.”

“Our approach must be to draw out the identifying marks of the man of sin from the passage itself, and then ... see if we recognize him.”



## WHO IS THE MAN OF SIN IN 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-10?

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 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;

4 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.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

## WHEN WILL THE MAN OF SIN APPEAR?

**He will appear after the Roman government is removed, and the church experiences a great falling away ...**

1. A current trend of antichrist already existed in the days of the apostles ...
  - For the mystery of iniquity doth already work ... (2 Thess 2:7)
  - Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist [the man of sin] shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. (1 John 2:18)
2. The restrainer must be removed ...
  - ... only he who now letteth [restrains] will let [restrain], until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked [one] be revealed ... (2 Thess 2:7,8)
  - Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away ... (Dan 2:34,35)
3. A falling away (apostasy) must occur ...
  - 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. (2 Thess 2:3)

## WHEN WILL THE MAN OF SIN APPEAR?

He will appear after the Roman government is removed, and the church experiences a great falling away ...



Trial of Justin Martyr (165)



Fall of Rome (410) / Roman Colosseum

“In 250 the new emperor Decius (249-51) ordered a systematic persecution, requiring that everyone should possess a certificate that he had sacrificed to the gods [of Rome] ... the number of apostates was immense ... .”

Henry Chadwick. 1967. The Early Church. Penguin Books, London, England. pp. 118.



## WHERE WILL THE MAN OF SIN APPEAR?

**He will appear from within the church ...**

1. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 ...

“... he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”

2. An identical name to the pretending disciple, Judas Iscariot: The Son of Perdition ...

“... that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition (2 Thess 2:3).” Compare John 17:12.

**WHERE WILL THE MAN OF SIN APPEAR?**

**He will appear from within the church ...**



## WHY WILL THE MAN OF SIN APPEAR?

**He will come to be worshipped by men as though he were God ...**

### 1. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 ...

“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.”

### 2. God-like wording ...

- “... that man of sin be revealed [apokalupto] ... that he might be revealed [apokalupto] in his time ... and then that Wicked shall be revealed [apokalupto] ... (2 Thess 2:3,6,8).” Compare 2 Thessalonians 1:7, “... when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed [apokalupto] ...”
- “Even him, whose coming [parousia] is after the working of Satan ... (2 Thess 2:9).” Compare Matthew 24:3, “What shall be the sign of thy coming [parousia]?”

### 3. God-like activity ...

- “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power [miracles] and signs and lying [false] wonders (2 Thess 2:9)”



## WHY WILL THE MAN OF SIN APPEAR?

He will come to be worshipped by men as though he were God ...



## **HOW LONG WILL THE MAN OF SIN APPEAR?**

**He will appear from the Fall of Rome, until the Return of Christ ...**

1. 2 Thessalonians 2:8 ...

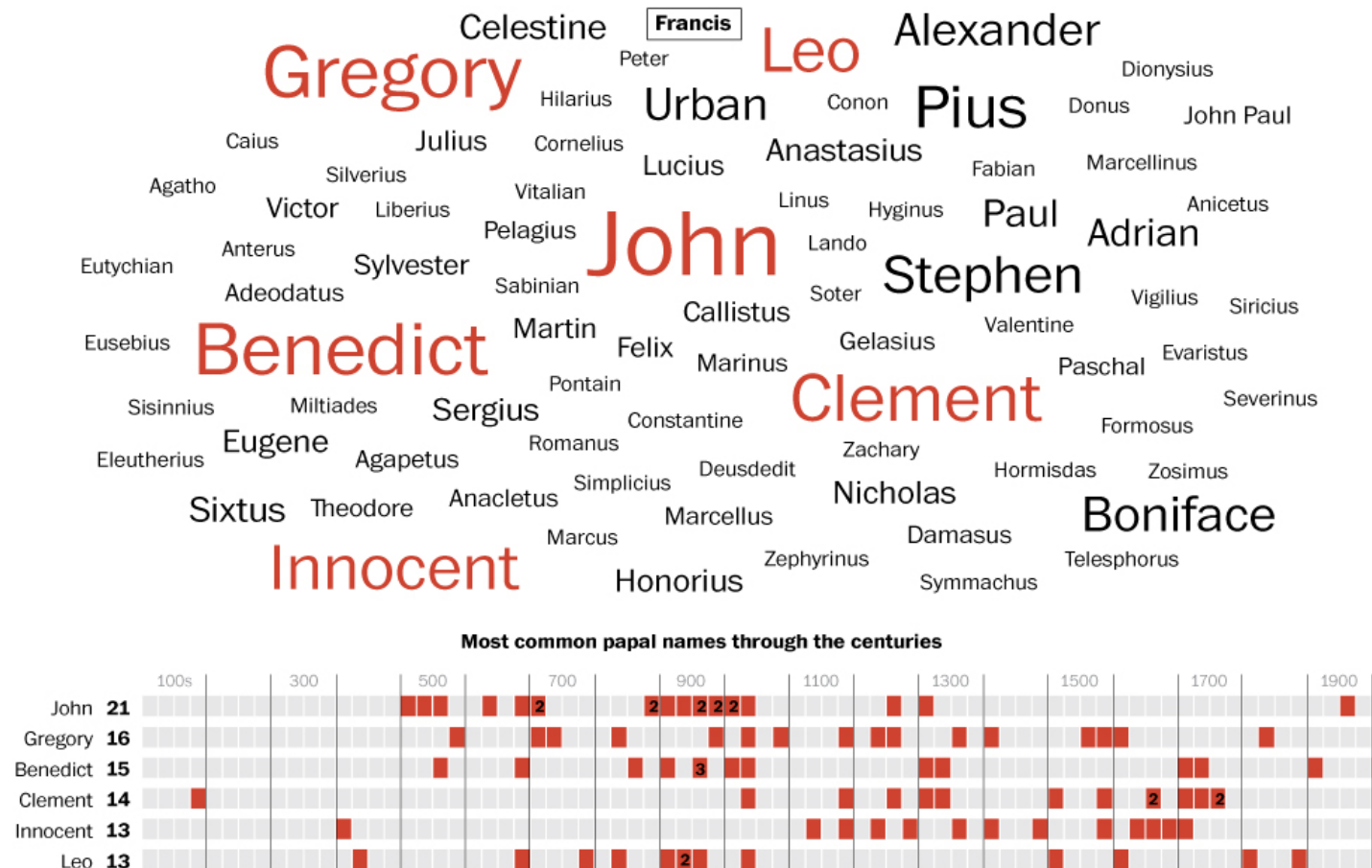
“And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.”

2. Silversides, p. 12 ...

“We must conclude that this does not refer to a single individual man, but to a succession of individuals occupying a position throughout a large part of the New Testament age over many centuries.”

# HOW LONG WILL THE MAN OF SIN APPEAR?

He will appear from the Fall of Rome, until the Return of Christ ...



Note: Antipopes not included



## **SUMMARY STATEMENTS**

## WHO IS THE MAN OF SIN IN 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-10?

1. The man of sin will appear AFTER the restrainer (Rome) is removed, and after a great apostasy within the church occurs.
2. The man of sin will come from WITHIN the church, pretending to be a friend of Christ's (i.e., the son of perdition like Judas Iscariot).
3. The man of sin will come to be WORSHIPPED by men, as though he were God.
4. The man of sin will endure UNTIL Christ returns and destroys him by the brightness of his coming.

Who fits this description? Nero, Mohammad, Hitler, Stalin, Obama, the Pope?



**A FINAL THOUGHT ...**

“Some will say that the Reformers, the Puritans and Covenanters were simply men of their time. The papacy was a big problem in their day and this over-influenced their judgement. The reverse is actually the case [we are men of our time]. If we deny that the papacy is the Antichrist and are deceived by the benign image the papacy now portrays, it is *we*, not our predecessors, who are over-influenced by present surroundings. They [the Reformers, Puritans and Covenanters] saw Rome in its true colours and assessed the matter biblically.” -- David Silversides (p. 13).