

# THE TRUTH

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## Lesson 14 - The Truth About the Man of Sin

Christians throughout the history of the church have been fascinated about the identity of the "Man of Sin," (also translated as the "man of lawlessness") mentioned in the New Testament. The list of possible candidates to fit his description includes many past and present religious and political leaders. However, when we look at the scriptural passages that mention the "Man of Sin," it becomes clear that they don't refer to any specific historical personage at all. The Bible gives us sufficient clues to identify who this man is.

### 1. What two "men" are mentioned in the Scriptures?

- The Man of \_\_\_\_\_ [Isaiah 53:3]

"No sacrifice should ever seem hard, and no task laborious, for man for whom Jesus died. Since Jesus took our sins, let us take up our cross and carry out His commands. Since He bore our burdens, let us bring our wills in line with the revealed will of Heaven." [Spurgeon]

- The Man of \_\_\_\_\_ [Thessalonians 2:3]

He is called the man of sin because he has sought to alter the religion of the people, and by cruelty sought to introduce a change of worship, and set up laws contrary to the Scriptures. He is the ringleader of others into sin, either by fraud or violence; he also gives encouragements and enactments to sin.

### 2. What two events must precede the Second Coming of Jesus? [2 Thessalonians 2:3]

- A \_\_\_\_\_ away.

**NOTE:** The expression "falling away" translates the Greek term apostasia. A defection from the religion ordained by God. [Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 3:12]

- The Man of sin must be \_\_\_\_\_.

**NOTE:** This sinister force, from a first-century vantage point, was yet to be revealed. This appears to suggest that the movement had not evolved to the point where it could be identified definitely by the primitive saints. It awaited future development. In Paul's day there was some influence that restrained the budding of the Man of Sin. The restraining force eventually would "be taken out of the way", or, more correctly, "be gone." And so, the Man of Sin would be revealed openly.

### 3. What is the Biblical definition of sin? [1 John 3:4] Ans. The breaking of \_\_\_\_\_

"It is impossible to explain the origin of sin so as to give a reason for its existence. Sin is an intruder, for whose presence no reason can be given. It is mysterious, unaccountable; to excuse it is to defend it. Our only definition of sin is that given in the word of God; it is "the transgression of the law." [The Great

### IDENTIFYING THE MAN OF SIN

**NOTE:** In the last century there have arisen innumerable theories and speculations as to who this "The Man of Sin" really is:

- Liberal theologians contend that Paul's concept of the "Man of Sin" reflects a belief in ancient, \_\_\_\_\_
- Some allege that the "Man of Sin" is merely a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of evil, which may appear in various forms in different historical periods as an opponent of truth. It may be manifest as Islam, fascism, communism, etc.
- The Millennialists and some others contend that the "Man of Sin" is an individual embodying \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ power who is still to arise before the future day of the Lord, Atheism.

Hal Lindsey calls this hostile person "the Future Fuehrer," and he spends an entire section attempting to prove that "dramatic elements which are occurring in the world today are setting the stage for this magnetic, diabolical Future Fuehrer to make his entrance." [The Late, Great Planet Earth]

**NOTE:** But Paul stated that the "mystery of iniquity," characteristic of the Man of Sin, was "already at work" in the first century. This clearly eliminates any person who arises during the modern era. Newton's comment is appropriate: "As this evil began in the apostles' days, and was to continue in the world till the second coming of Christ in power and great glory: it necessarily follows, that it was to be carried on not by one man, but by a **succession of men** in several ages."

- The Protestant reformers all contend that the "Man of Sin" refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ / the \_\_\_\_\_, in whom, it is contended, many of the blasphemous features of Paul's representation are unmistakably realized.

**THOMAS MANTON:** "Now, how much open sin is practiced, allowed, and maintained in the Papacy; the sodomy, blasphemy, incest, adulteries, sorceries, murders, treasons, parricides, which they have authorized and countenanced. Histories witness that hardly hath the world yielded a more abominable sort of men, than have sat in that chair of pestilence. This I am sure of, that a man can sin nowhere at so cheap a rate as in Popery."

4. The Apostle Paul applies another name to the "Man of Sin," what is it? [2 Thess. 2:3] Ans. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

5. Whom else in the Scriptures is this title applied to? [John 17:12] Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** God is letting us know that the man of sin would be just like Judas; someone who is counted as "one of us," but works for Satan.

The term "Son of Perdition" may be explained either:

- \_\_\_\_\_: This refers to one condemned to everlasting destruction; as the 'son of death' is one condemned to die. [2 Samuel 12:5; Ephesians 2:3]
- \_\_\_\_\_: This refers to one bringing destruction upon himself and others. [Revelation

**9:11, Hebrews 5:9]** Christ is the author of salvation; on the other hand, the “man of sin” is the author of destruction.

## THE PARALLEL

- A. Judas was not a stranger, but a pretended friend and apostle: [Matt. 26:50; Acts 1:17]**
- Aa. The “Man of Sin”/ the papacy seeks to undermine Jesus under a pretense of friendship. [Daniel 7:25]**
- i. The pope alone is deservedly called by the name “most holy,” because he alone is the Vicar of Christ, who is the fountain and source and fullness of all holiness... “He is likewise the divine monarch and supreme emperor, and king of kings. [**Prompta Bibliotheca, art. “Papa,” II, Vol. VI, pp. 26-29.]**
  - ii. For he is of so great dignity and power that he forms one and the same tribunal with Christ... “The pope is as it were God on earth, sole sovereign of Christ, chief king of kings, having plenitude of power, to whom has been entrusted by the omnipotent God direction not only of the earthly but also of the heavenly kingdom.... The pope is of so great authority and power that he can modify, explain, or interpret even divine laws.’ [**Translated from Lucius Ferraris, Prompta Bibliotheca, art. “Papa,” II, Vol. VI, pp. 26-29.]**
  - iii. Christopher Marcellus, at the fourth session of the fifth Lateran Council in an oration to the Pope, exclaimed: ‘Thou are the shepherd, thou art the physician, thou art the director, thou art the husbandman; finally, thou art another God on earth.’ [**P. Joannis Harduin, Acta Conciliorum, Vol. IX, p. 1651.]**
  - iv. The pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a mere man, but as it were God, and the vicar of God. Hence the pope is crowned with a triple crown, as king of heaven and of earth, and of the lower regions. [**F. Lucius Ferraris, Prompta Bibliotheca Canonica Juridica Moralis Theologica, printed at Rome in 1890, and approved by the Catholic Encyclopedia Vol. 6, p. 48.]**
- B. Judas sold Christ for thirty-pieces of silver. [Matthew 26:15]**
- Bb. *Omnia Romæ venalitas* “In Rome everything is for sale.” [Daniel 8:12]**

**NOTE:** The Church of Rome has made a market of religion; truth is made to yield to commerce and profit such as pardons, indulgences, freedom from purgatory, all to be bought with money; considering the things put to sale, the pardon of sins, were already purchased with Christ's precious blood.

- C. Judas betrayed Christ with a kiss, under a pretense of honoring him. [Luke 22:47, 48]**
- Cc. The “Man of Sin”/ the papacy also betrays Jesus with a kiss. [2 Thessalonians 2:4]**

**NOTE:** Pope Francis leads the celebration of the Vespers of the Solemnity of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Jan. 25, 2014, concluding the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at the Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls (San Paolo fuori le mura). Note that Pope Francis was seated on a great white throne between two golden Cherubim, [**Isaiah 37:16**] and four living creatures, [**Revelation 4:6-8**] in the apse. “The Saviour Himself is the door of the sheepfold: ‘I am the door of the sheep.’ Into this fold of Jesus Christ, no man may enter unless he be led by the Sovereign Pontiff; and only if they be united to him can men be saved, for the Roman Pontiff is the Vicar of Christ and His personal representative on earth.” [**Pope John XXIII in his homily to the Bishops and faithful assisting at his coronation on November 4, 1958**]

- D. Judas was a guide to them that came to take Christ to be crucified. [Matthew 26:47]**

**Dd. The “Man of Sin”/ the papacy has guided many of Christ followers to the stake. [Daniel 7:25]**

“That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history. It is impossible to form a complete conception of the multitude of her victims, and it is quite certain that no powers of imagination can adequately realize their sufferings.” **[W. E. H. Lecky, History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe, vol. 2, p. 32, 1910 edition]**

There was the stake for those who would not concede to her claims. There were massacres on a scale that will never be known until revealed in the judgment. Dignitaries of the church studied, under Satan their master, to invent means to cause the greatest possible torture and not end the life of the victim. In many cases the infernal process was repeated to the utmost limit of human endurance, until nature gave up the struggle, and the sufferer hailed death as a sweet release. **[Great Controversy, 569]**

“From the birth of popery to the present time, it is estimated by careful and credible historians, that more than fifty million of the human family, have been slaughtered for the crime of heresy by popish persecutors- -an average of more than 40,000 religious murders for every year of the existence of popery to the present day. Of course the average number of victims yearly, was vastly greater, during those gloomy ages when popery was in her glory and reigned despot of the world; and it has been much less since the power of the popes has diminished to tyrannize over the nations, and to compel the princes of the earth, by the terrors of excommunication, interdiction, and deposition, to butcher their heretical subjects.” **[John Dowling, The History of Romanism, 541-542]**

**E. Judas openly transgressed the Commandments of God. [John 12:4-6]**

**Ee. The “Man of Sin”/ the papacy openly transgressed the law of God, and has taught many to do the same. [Daniel 7:25]**

## THE CHANGE

**Q:** Which is the Sabbath day?

**Ans:** Saturday is the Sabbath day?

**Q: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?**

**Ans:** We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Laodicea (A.D. 337) transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.”

**Q: Have you any other way of proving that the Catholic Church has power to institute festivals of precept?**

**Ans:** Had she not such power she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week for Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no scriptural authority.”

**Cardinal Gibbons (1834-1921),** “The Catholic Church by its own infallible authority created Sunday- a holy day to take the place of the Sabbath of the old law.” **[Kansas City Catholic, February 9, 1893]**

**NOTE:** Lastly, now all these things should open our eyes, that we may behold the “man of sin”, the son of perdition; another Judas.

**6. What will eventually happen to the “Man of Sin” and his sympathizers; if they do not repent? [2 Thessalonians 2:8] Ans.** They will be \_\_\_\_\_

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