



## PROPHECY AGAIN

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### STUDY PETER'S DENIALS AS REPETITION OF EDICT OF MILAN TO END KILLING OF CHRISTIANS LEADS TO NSL

1. To whom did the Lord tell John to write? Revelation 1:11 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2a. What does the Lord's messenger say regarding the messages to the seven churches? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2b. **"The names of the seven churches are symbolic of the church in different periods of the Christian Era. The number 7 indicates completeness, and is symbolic of the fact that the messages extend to the end of time, while the symbols used reveal the condition of the church at different periods in the history of the world." {AA 585.3}**
3. What principle does Jesus give to show that the messages to the seven churches apply to us? Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11 \_\_\_\_\_

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4. In this study we are going to analyze the messages to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, and see how these messages apply to us in these last days.
5. Note: Church historians date the beginning of Ephesus in A.D. 27 when Jesus was baptized by John the baptist in the Jordan. The language that frame the message to the church of Ephesus confirms this fact.
6. Where is Jesus seen walking? Revelation 2:1 \_\_\_\_\_
7. What do the seven golden candlesticks represent? Answer: They represent the church members, primarily the first disciples. See Revelation 1:20; Matthew 5:14-16.
8. Which church accepted Jesus and allowed Him to reside in their midst, once He began His public ministry after His baptism in A.D. 27? Answer: It was not the Jewish church. See Luke 4:16-30; John 1:11; Matthew 23:37-39; John 19:15. It was the apostolic church (the disciples, the apostles), the Christian church. See John 6:67-69; Acts 2:36-47; Acts 5:27-32; Acts 11:26.
9. Note: To summarize the above points, the language from the message to Ephesus proves that the time period began in A.D. 27.
10. Note: Let us turn our focus to the message to the church of Smyrna. Read Revelation 2:8-11.
11. How long did the Christians in the time period of the church of Smyrna suffer tribulation? Revelation 2:9,10 \_\_\_\_\_
- 12a. What does a day represent in Bible prophecy? Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 12b. Note: The church members of the church of Smyrna suffered persecution and tribulation for 10 years.
  
- 13a. During the first centuries, after Jesus returned to heaven, which emperor of Rome started the persecution of the Christians, which lasted for 10 years? **Answer:** Emperor Diocletian of Rome. This persecution was also known in history as the great persecution of Christians by Rome, which lasted from A.D. 303 to A.D. 313. Read the following historical facts and bear in mind that similar events will be repeated in these lasts.
- 13b. **"The reign of the emperor Diocletian (284–305) marked the final widespread persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire. The most intense period of violence came after Diocletian issued an edict in 303 more strictly enforcing adherence to the traditional religious practices of Rome in conjunction with Imperial cult...Christians were executed under the authority of Imperial edicts..." "the persecution intensified until all Christians in the empire were commanded to sacrifice to the gods or face immediate execution. Over 20,000 Christians are thought to have died during Diocletian's reign."**  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Christians\\_martyred\\_during\\_the\\_reign\\_of\\_Diocletian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christians_martyred_during_the_reign_of_Diocletian)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution\\_of\\_Christians#The\\_Great\\_Persecution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution_of_Christians#The_Great_Persecution)
  
14. Note: To summarize the above points, the language from the message to Smyrna proves that the time period covered A.D. 303 to A.D. 313.
15. Note: Let us turn our focus to the message to the church of Pergamos. Read Revelation 2:12-17.
  
- 16a. When did the time period of Pergamos begin? **Answer:** In the year A.D. 313. To confirm this, just note that the previous church period, which is called Smyrna, experienced a bloody persecution of Christians that lasted for 10 prophetic days or 10 literal years (See Revelation 2:10). History reveals that the bloody, ten-year persecution that came upon the faithful Christians in the first centuries started under Emperor Diocletian of Rome, in the year 303 and ended with Emperor Constantine the Great, of Rome, in the year A.D. 313.
- 16b. Read the following historical record: "It [the Edict of Milan] came out of a two-man [Emperors Constantine and Licinius] summit meeting in the northern Italian city of Milan in January 313... And after the failure of the Great Persecution (initiated by the emperors Diocletian and Galerius in 303–304), the Christian church had begun to recover its stability...This [the Edict of Milan] required a guarantee of full religious freedom to the Christians, setting them on a par with those who followed other religions. The so-called Edict of Milan provided for this. It marks the Roman Empire's final abandonment of the policies of persecution of Christians. The age of the martyrs was at an end. The transition to the era of the "Christian Empire" had begun. <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/1990/issue28/2809.html>

17. Let us summarize the points that we have covered so far. The Christians throughout the world during the time period of Smyrna were martyred for their faith (A.D. 303 to A.D. 313). In the year A.D. 313, Emperor Constantine of Rome issued the Edict of Milan that ended the persecution of Christians, granted them religious freedom, and the Edict of Milan promoted tolerance toward Christians.

18. What did Emperor Constantine of Rome do in A.D. 321, after he issued the Edict of Milan? \_\_\_\_\_

“In the early part of the fourth century the **emperor Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire.**” {GC 53.1}

“On this day in the year 321, Constantine decreed ‘the day of the sun’ as a day of rest.” <http://www.historychannel.com.au/classroom/day-in-history/473/constantine-decrees-sun-day-as-day-of-rest>

19. Note: Only eight years had elapsed after Emperor Constantine issued the Edict of Milan and the enforcing of the Sunday Law throughout the Roman Empire.

20. Note: Let us turn our focus to the message to the church of Thyatira. Read Revelation 2:18-29.

21. Which sinful person is especially mentioned in the message to the church of Thyatira? Revelation 2:20 \_\_\_\_\_

22. What is one of the terrible things that Jezebel did? 1 Kings 18:3,18 \_\_\_\_\_

23. Note: Therefore, the time period of Thyatira represents persecution and martyrdom for God’s commandment-keeping people.

24a. What are the applications of the above conclusions? Answer: The following reports show that Christians are being persecuted and martyred worldwide, especially in the middle east.

24b. ‘Convert or Face the Sword’: Iraqi Christian Recalls ISIS’s Deadly Deadline <http://www.charismanews.com/world/45142-convert-or-face-the-sword-iraqi-christian-recalls-isis-deadly-deadline>

24c. “The New Exodus: Christians Flee ISIS in the Middle East” <http://www.newsweek.com/2015/04/03/new-exodus-christians-flee-isis-middle-east-316785.html>

24d. Christian Refugees Are Begging the West to Save Them From Persecution, Says Syrian Church Leader

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-refugees-begging-the-west-to-save-them-from-persecution-crisis-has-reached-biblical-proportions-warns-syrian-church-leader-147087/>

24e. 60 Million People Fleeing Chaotic Lands, U.N. Says

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/18/world/60-million-people-fleeing-chaotic-lands-un-says.html>

24f. Kim Davis emerges as lightning rod for religious freedom among some Republicans

<http://www.religionnews.com/2015/09/05/kim-davis-emerges-as-lightning-rod-for-religious-freedom-among-some-republicans/>

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/popes-meeting-kim-davis-white-house-reiterates-religious/story?id=34154165>

25. Note: That would be one application of the church of Smyrna.

26. Note: The following report shows that Pope Francis is calling for a similar law to be issued as the Edict of Milan, a union of church and state.

Pope Francis wrote that many Christians in many parts of the world still experience discrimination “and at times pay with their own blood the price of their profession of faith.” He noted that 2013 marked the 1,700th anniversary of the Edict of Milan – a proclamation of tolerance of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire, which is often seen as a symbol of the first affirmation of the principle of religious freedom. The edict “put an end to religious persecution in the Roman Empire in both East and West, and opened new channels for the dissemination of the Gospel,” he wrote. “Today, as then, Christians of East and West must give common witness so that, strengthened by the spirit of the risen Christ, they may disseminate the message of salvation to the entire world,” the pope said. <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2013/12/02/christians-must-cooperate-to-help-the-persecuted-church-pope-tells-patriarch/>

27. Note: Pope Francis bore that message to the United Nations.

“I must renew my repeated appeals regarding to the painful situation of the entire Middle East, North Africa and other African countries, where Christians, together with other cultural or ethnic groups, and even members of the majority religion who have no desire to be caught up in hatred and folly, **have been forced to witness the destruction of their places of worship, their cultural and religious heritage, their houses and property, and have faced the alternative either of fleeing or of paying for their adhesion to good and to peace by their own lives, or by enslavement.**” <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/09/full-text-pope-francis-speech-united-nations-150925174945079.html>

28. Note: Pope Francis bore that message to the United States.

“In a world where various forms of modern tyranny seek to suppress religious freedom, or try to reduce it to a subculture without right to a voice in the public square, or to use religion as a pretext for hatred and brutality, **it is imperative that the followers of the various religions join their voices in calling for peace, tolerance and respect for the dignity and rights of others.**” [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/26/us/pope-francis-remarks-at-independence-hall.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/26/us/pope-francis-remarks-at-independence-hall.html?_r=0)

29a. Note: We will see a similar law to the Edict of Milan, based on the current crises that Christians are facing daily, hundreds being persecuted and killed.

“Our brothers and our sisters ... are persecuted, exiled, slain, beheaded, solely for being Christian,” he said, his expression tense, his cadence slow but deliberate. **Speaking from a window of the Apostolic Palace, the pope said that there have been more “martyrs” for Christianity in recent years than in the early centuries of the faith. “I hope that the international community doesn’t stand mute and inert before such unacceptable crimes, which constitute a worrisome erosion of the most elementary human rights.** I truly hope that the international community doesn’t look the other way.” <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/04/07/has-the-world-looked-the-other-way-while-christians-are-killed/>

29b. "It's Official: Terrorists Are Now the Persecuted Church's Greatest Threat"

"During the past two years, reports of terrorist attacks against Christians have steadily emerged from the Muslim world: 7 Egyptian Christians executed on a Benghazi beach, 165 Christian girls kidnapped from school by Boko Haram, and 21 Coptic Christians beheaded near the Mediterranean Sea, among other incidents." <http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2015/october/international-religious-freedom-report-2014-state-dept.html>  
<http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-persecution-islam-isis-boko-haram-john-kerry-state-department-religious-freedom-147687/>

30. Note: The obvious conclusion is that the Sunday Law is soon to be enforced.

31. Note: The next event that will follow is persecution for God's commandment-keeping people by an entity that resembles Jezebel.

32a. Who does Jezebel represent in these last days? Answer: Jezebel was a woman. A woman represents a church in Bible prophecy. See Jeremiah 6:2; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23-25. Jezebel represents the Papacy. To confirm, carefully consider the following.

32b. How is Jezebel described in the Old Testament? 2 Kings 9:22

32c. Which church is primarily called a whore, a mother, and practices witchcraft, sorcery? **Answer:** The Papacy. See **Revelation 17:1-5; Revelation 18:21,23** (witchcraft and sorcery are synonymous); also compare Revelation 17:3 with John 10:30-33 and Mark 2:5-7 (blasphemy).

32d. In ancient times, what did literal Jezebel do to God's faithful people? 1 Kings 18:4,13

32e. What does the whore, the mother of harlots, the Papacy, do to God's saints? Revelation 17:6

32f. Also Jezebel met her demise as she stood looking and talking through her window. 2 Kings 9:30-37. The only entity that controlled and dictates to the leaders of the nations and murder and martyr God's faithful Christians throughout the ages, and has a religious leader that speaks from a window is the Papacy, the Roman Catholic Church.

32g. To confirm read: "The other opportunity to see the Pope is on a Sunday at 12 noon when he is in Rome. He will appear from the window of his apartment where he gives a short speech..." <http://www.papalaudience.org/information>

33. Note: It was Emperor Diocletian of Rome who martyred the Christians beginning in A.D. 303. It was Emperor Constantine, another leader of Rome, that stopped the persecution in A.D. 313; and then Emperor Constantine enacted the Sunday Law in A.D. 321.

34. Note: The application is that it is a possibility that it is the Papacy that is persecuting the Christians through her agents and then she will stand and offer the solution. This will set the stage for the enforcing of the Sunday Law.

35. What happened to the commandment-keeping Christians, the Sabbath-keepers, after Emperor Constantine enacted the Sunday Law in A.D. 321?

**But while many God-fearing Christians were gradually led to regard Sunday as possessing a degree of sacredness, they still held the true Sabbath as the holy of the Lord and observed it in obedience to the fourth commandment. Vast councils were held from time to time, in which the dignitaries of the church were convened from all the world. In nearly every council the Sabbath which God had instituted was pressed down a little lower, while the Sunday was correspondingly exalted.** Thus the pagan festival came finally to be honored as a divine institution, while the Bible Sabbath was pronounced a relic of Judaism, **and its observers were declared to be accursed.** {GC 53.2}

36a. The following reports show us that the Sunday Law is soon to be enforced.

36b. We read the following from the website: "**Alliance of Religions and Conservation**" "ARC is a secular body that helps the major religions of the world to develop their own environmental programmes, based on their own core teachings, beliefs and practices." [http://www.arcworld.org/about\\_ARC.asp](http://www.arcworld.org/about_ARC.asp)

36c. **"We will develop a new Catholic campaign based on the ideas of "Sabbath living" that inspires Catholic individuals and institutions to "remember" the Sabbath. The program will tap into a longing by all people,** but particularly people of faith, to find time to rest, contemplate nature and our place within it, consume less, and re-build relationships with nature and one another and with God."  
<http://www.arcworld.org/news.asp?pageID=789> <http://www.arcworld.org/downloads/Catholic%20Climate.pdf>

36d. "I know that **the Catholic Climate Covenant** is doing great work in supporting the advocacy of the U.S. bishops **on climate change both domestically and internationally.** Specific efforts include writing letters, signing petitions and **visiting lawmakers' offices** around a national carbon pollution standard, the Green Climate Fund, **and COP21 in Paris. Additionally, Catholics are urged to form Creation Care Teams in their parish and work with their pastor to integrate Laudato si' deeper into parish life.** In conjunction with these efforts, **I would strongly encourage people to write letters to the editor of their local newspaper urging that lawmakers support the bishops' climate change advocacy positions.** This is important with respect to a national carbon pollution standard, since the strength of an agreement at **the Paris Climate Conference** will partly depend on the commitments of the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." [http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/09/29/cardinal\\_turkson\\_catholic\\_institutions\\_and\\_climate\\_change/1175534](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/09/29/cardinal_turkson_catholic_institutions_and_climate_change/1175534)

36e. The following report is taken from the Salvation Army. "**A Call For Climate Justice**" Under the Section: **What does the Lord Require of You, we read. "Keep the Sabbath: It could be the most radical thing a church can do for environmental stewardship—to commit to keeping the Sabbath. The scriptures make constant reference to rest and care for the land as well as for people on the Sabbath.** Spending time with family and friends and enjoying the free outdoors is an act of resistance to the pressures of materialism and consumerism. [http://www1.salvationarmy.org/IHQ/www\\_ihq\\_isjc.nsf/vw-sublinks/442678BFBE1E72802578F80009CE61?openDocument](http://www1.salvationarmy.org/IHQ/www_ihq_isjc.nsf/vw-sublinks/442678BFBE1E72802578F80009CE61?openDocument)

37. Note: It is interesting that in the time period of the church of Pergamos, Emperor Constantine issued the Edict of Milan that ended martyrdom for the Christians, yet in the message to the church of Pergamos martyrdom is also mentioned. See Revelation 2:13.
38. Note: This means that as Pope Francis is calling for a similar law as the Edict of Milan to end persecution of Christians, the Papacy will work to bring persecution upon God's people.
39. Who was the Lord's faithful martyr? Revelation 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_
40. Note: Antipas is a compound word, "Anti" and "Pas". "Anti" means against and to oppose. The word "Pas" means father. Who was known as "father" that was responsible for persecution the saints of God in the time period of Pergamos? Answer: It was the Pope. Therefore, the word antipas means to oppose the Pope and to go against the Pope. Consider the fact that those who oppose the Pope in the name of Jesus, are called faithful by Jesus. See Revelation 2:13.
41. In the time of persecution and martyrdom, what did the Lord say concerning the experience of His faithful people? Revelation 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_
42. Note: In the soon coming crisis we are called by God to hold fast his name. The Lord's name represents His character.
43. Where does the Lord desire to put His name and character? Revelation 14:1 \_\_\_\_\_
44. Those who have the Father's name and character in their foreheads, what will the Lord do for them? Revelation 7:3 \_\_\_\_\_
45. What experience must we have for the Lord to seal us? 2 Timothy 2:19 \_\_\_\_\_
46. How may we get to point of getting victory over every known sin? Answer: The answer lies in the following step. Besides holding fast God's name, what must we not do? Revelation 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_
47. Note: The account of Peter comes to mind, because Peter denied the faith, he denied Jesus three times. See Matthew 26:69-75.
48. What did the damsel say unto Peter and how did he respond? Matthew 26:69,70 \_\_\_\_\_
49. Note: The damsel could have said simply to Peter you were with Jesus, but she said Jesus of Galilee. Then Peter denied the fact.
50. What specifically was Peter denying? Answer: Peter denied that Jesus was the promised Christ, the promised Messiah. Jesus was confirmed as the Christ, the Messiah, at His baptism. And Jesus came from Galilee, in order to be baptized in the Jordan by John the Baptist. Peter denied the prophecies, the voice of the Father, and the history, that laid at the foundation of his experience with Jesus. See Matthew 26:68-70; Matthew 3:13-17; Isaiah 9:1,6,7.
51. What did the maid say to Peter and how did he respond? Matthew 26:71,72 \_\_\_\_\_
52. Note: The maid could have said simply to Peter you were with Jesus, but she said Jesus of Nazareth.
53. Note: And Nathanael said that can any good thing come out of Nazareth. See John 1:46. Therefore, Peter did not want to associate himself with Jesus and truth, because that would ruin his reputation, his friendship with others. However, what does the Lord say to us? Philippians 2:5-8 \_\_\_\_\_
54. What did the people say unto Peter and how did he respond? Matthew 26:73,74 \_\_\_\_\_
55. Note: Peter refused to speak words that would associate him with Jesus and His truth. As a result, Peter used foul language, he cursed.
56. Note: According to Matthew's account, immediately the cock crew. What happened next? Answer: Peter remembered the word of Jesus. See Matthew 26:74,75.
57. Note: One application is that Peter denied Jesus two times, yet he was not awakened to his terrible sins. It was after Peter's third and final denial that he heard the cock crow and was awakened to his sins. Many of God's professed people will repeat this account and be lost.
58. Note: Another application is that the other gospel writers state that the cock crew once after each of Peter's denials, but he did not take heed to the warnings, until he denied Jesus the third time.
59. Note: The reality is that Peter had made use of the time to repent before the options were given, Christ or Barabbas. However, many people in these last days will deny Jesus and His truth and it will be too late for them to confess and repent.
60. What did Peter do when the cock crew and he was finally awakened to his sins? Matthew 26:75 \_\_\_\_\_
61. Before we die, before the Sunday Law is enforced, we must have bitter sorrow for sin, godly sorrow for sin. See 2 Corinthians 7:10,11.  
He remembered with bitter remorse that Jesus had wept and agonized in prayer alone, while those who should have united with Him in that trying hour were sleeping. He remembered His solemn charge, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." Matthew 26:41. He witnessed again the scene in the judgment hall. **It was torture to his bleeding heart to know that he had added the heaviest burden to the Savior's humiliation and grief.** On the very spot where Jesus had poured out His soul in agony to His Father, Peter fell upon his face, and wished that he might die. {DA 713.3}
62. What will cause us to have bitter sorrow for sin? Zechariah 12:10 \_\_\_\_\_  
We often sorrow because our evil deeds bring unpleasant consequences to ourselves; but this is not repentance. Real sorrow for sin is the result of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit reveals the ingratitude of the heart that has slighted and grieved the Savior, and brings us in contrition to the foot of the cross. By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh; and as we look upon Him whom we have pierced, we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him. Such mourning will lead to the renunciation of sin. {DA 300.3}
63. What did Peter do and say that showed that he was converted after his bitter sorrow for sin? Acts 5:28-32 \_\_\_\_\_