

Reformation Christian Ministries

January 2004



**Virgin Mary and Greek/Roman goddess
Related or mere coincidence?
Part I**



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And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name [was] Barjesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also [is called] Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, [thou] child of the devil, [thou] enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? [Acts 13:6-10]

The more I learn of Roman Catholicism (after two trips to the Vatican and Italy and years of studying), the more these words to Elymas by the Apostle Paul can be applied to it. Since the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s, the Roman Catholic Church has been considered anti-Christian by all Protestant denominations. Many confessions label the Pope as the anti-Christ. Dr. Franco Maggioletto refers to it as “*the most impressive religious machine.*” Mischief and subtlety have been its hallmark almost since the time of Constantine, though in spite of this, God has worked to bring out of it the likes of Wycliffe, Huss, Luther, Calvin, and a host of others who became the foundation of the Reformation and become part of the true church.

However, over time, Protestants forgot their reasons for a separate existence. By the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the barriers on the part of the Protestants began to break down through revivalism, Pentecostalism, and the ecumenical movement. The Vatican saw its opportunity to open its door to Protestants by giving the appearance of a metamorphosis into something other than what they were, while all the time remaining largely as they were. The barriers began to come down amongst laymen. Vatican II would later initiate dialogue at more official levels, and this gave hope to reformers within and without such that a significant bridge has developed across the gap that has long divided Roman

Catholicism and Protestantism. Fueled by high liturgy movements within Protestantism and simpler services in some Roman services, Rome’s attempt to narrow the gap has shown increasing success such that in the last decade (and even in the last months) some Reformed and Presbyterian ministers have renounced their Protestant oaths and pledged allegiance to Rome or to Greek and Russian Orthodox churches. Many Roman Catholic websites are now devoted to converting Protestants and contain testimonies of converts. *Catholics and Evangelicals Together* and the *Pro-Life movement* have further reinforced these bridges. The phrase “born-again” (with near total disregard for the Scriptural basis of regeneration) is being applied to Protestant and Catholic alike (not to mention non-

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Christians). The lines are being blurred, and all this is an intentional long-term plan by Roman Catholicism at absorbing all other faiths (including Islam) into its fold. Never has it changed its goal, as recently stated in an official document: “*We declare, say, define, and proclaim to every human creature that they by necessity for salvation are entirely subject to the Roman Pontiff.*”

Without denying the fact that God is perfectly capable of sovereignly changing the hearts of Roman Catholics and even Mormons, Muslims, and Hindus, one thing is very clear; truly transformed hearts must result in transformed lives and transformed allegiances. Most Roman Catholic priests who come to true faith in Jesus Christ, ultimately must leave the Roman Catholic Church. Believers, like insects, are attracted to Light.

Syncretism (the merging, fusing, or reconciling of two or more differing systems of belief) has been the *modus operandi* of Roman Catholicism since its inception. While insisting on some change, it seeks to identify, incorporate, and/or adapt to its target culture through a process it calls “inculturation”, all the while laying the foundation for its ultimate domination of that culture or changing its basic doctrine or structure. This inculturation not only adapts in external things such as architecture and art, but also in spiritual and philosophical spheres as well. Paganism has always had a passion for syncretism, as 1 Samuel 15:1-2 demonstrate by the Philistines bringing the Ark of the Covenant after its capture (symbol of the

(Continued on next page.)

Published by Reformation Christian Ministries

U.S.A.: 13950 122nd Street, Fellsmere, Florida 32948-6411

Telephone: (772) 571-8833; Fax: (772) 571-8010

E-mail: gwd@reformation.edu

Internet: <http://www.reformation.edu>

CANADA: R.R. #1, 5060 Oliver Road, Murillo, ON P0T 2G0

Telephone: (807) 473-9344; E-mail: canada@reformation.edu

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Director of Missions: G. W. Donnan, Minister

conquered god) into the Temple of Dagon. Conquered gods are assimilated. They can be worshipped (it was put in their temple), as long as the conquering god is also worshipped, and thus the dilemma of the Christians in early Rome who were allowed to worship Jehovah IF they would also bend the knee to Rome's other gods. Hindus commonly reverence Jesus, alongside their other gods. It is no problem for them, but of course, it is for true Christians. Once Christianity became the endorsed religion of the Roman Empire, it quickly metamorphosed many of its key figures and holidays to accommodate the "conquered culture" so as to smooth this transition of being the "power religion." This was an ancient form of the modern day "Church Growth Movement" and the seeker friendly church – do what you have to do to attract the visitors and build the church and keep the peace. These were the early stages of the process of inculturation.

The worship of Mary is but one example of the mischievous subtlety of this syncretistic inculturation by taking existing cultural practices and metamorphosing them into something "Christian." Greece's Athena can be traced back to other earlier cultures, as far back as Babylon. When Rome conquered Greece, Greece's goddess merged into Rome's goddess, Europa, as part of the pagan syncretism/inculturation. (See below.)

When such is considered, you can see how impossible it is for someone who claims new birth and true faith to

intelligently remain in the Roman Catholic Church or any of the various Orthodox Churches which hold essentially the same position with respect to Mary. They worship false gods and false concepts of the true God which the Roman Church sets forth with mischievous subtlety instead of, or in place of, God and thus, as a system, are anti-Christ (instead of Christ). Truly the Apostle Paul's words could apply to this religious machine: **O full of all subtilty and all mischief, [thou] child of the devil, [thou] enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?**

But let's demonstrate that this is more than mere spiritual corruption, bad as that is. In fact, it has had, and continues to have, devastating political implications since Roman Catholicism has a world and life view of domination of earth as their Queen dominates in Heaven.

Let's now pick up on the how the tie between pagan religion in the political realm has now metamorphosed into the Roman Catholic version of the same. The virgin Europa was abducted by the Supreme god Zeus (having such other names as Father and Savior) in the form of a bull (see history of Babylonian bull-gods). She was lured onto the bull's back who then swam from Sidon to Crete. The bull revealed himself as Zeus and seduced Europa bearing him three children, who after her death, became a goddess. Through Rome, she eventually metamorphosed into the goddess of Europe

The Metamorphosis of the pagan Queen of Heaven into the "Christianized" Mary Queen of the Heaven/Universe.



(1) Roman version of ancient goddess Europa, in mythology the daughter of Sidonian King Agenor. (Sidonian women in Solomon's harem seduced him to worship Ashtoreth "the goddess of the Sidonians" [1 Kings 11:1, 4: 2 Kings 23:13].)
 (2) Sandro Botticelli's The Birth of Venus (Uffizi Gallery, Florence) emphasizing goddess like face and beauty.
 (3) Botticelli's Madonna of the Pomegranate (Uffizi) - note the similarity in the face, hair, and features, goddess-like, illustrating that the Virgin Mary and Venus or Europa are the same person by different names. This is no mere coincidence.
 (4) Piero di Cosimo's Incarnation of Christ (Uffizi). Yes, believe it, this is Mary being incarnated by Christ in the style of her annunciation. Obviously, for her to be a Christianized replacement for a goddess, she not only must be beautiful, but sinless. Only an incarnation from Christ can perform that.
 (5) Diego Rodriguez de Silva y Velasquez' Coronation of Mary in Heaven. This is but one of many such coronations of the now sinless Mary officially taking her throne as Queen of Heaven. In this case, officiating at her coronation are the Trinity: God the Son (left), God the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove (center), and God the Father (right). In all coronations, the lesser bestow the crown upon the greater, in other words, the Trinity gave all power into the hands of Mary, Queen of Heaven.
 (6) "Behold! Your Queen!" And lest you think this is not infecting North America, note this painting of the Patroness of Mater Dei Seminary, OMAHA, Nebraska, described in their own words as follows: Our Patroness, Mary Immaculate Queen, with all the emblems of her royalty: her cloak, with its border of ermine, envelopes the earth and denotes sovereign majesty. The sceptre in her right hand, which she holds slightly inclined in token of mercy, affirms her power and authority. The dazzling whiteness of her garments, and also of the lily lying at her feet, evokes her virginal purity. The side of her cloak turned towards men is the color of dawn and speaks to them of hope. The rosary she wears invites us to prayer, and the roses adorning the large beads are symbolic of her boundless love. She moves forward on the sphere, which represents the world, to meet her children in order to assist them in their trials; yet her feet do but glide over the earth as a reminder that this world is but a passage leading to the Eternal Homeland.

(Continued on next page.)



(Left) Ancient Europa riding the bull (Zeus, the Supreme god, also known as the Father). (Center) Modern remake of Europa (now Queen of Europe aka Queen of the Universe) riding the bull in modern statuary in front of the European Union Parliament building in Brussels, Belgium. (Far Right) Greek styled Europa (EYROPA) on the bull of new 2 Euro coin.

under different names and became the continent's namesake.

After Christianity was legalized in Rome and sought a popular mandate by accommodation, the Virgin Mary was found to appeal to the "perfect-feminine-goddess-loving Romans" (the precursor of today's Barbie-doll and Hollywood idol generation) as a substitute for their former worship of the Queen of Heaven goddess. Given the fact that Rome had been sacked and was no longer the world's conqueror, it made sense to transform the people's former conquering Queen of Heaven into a spiritual counterpart. Mary was ultimately imported as a Christian substitute for the goddess Europa. This was an ancient version of the modern concept popular in missiological circles known as "redemptive analogies."

They made a Christian analogy of their former practice and simply substituted it. Mariolatry persists to this day and is growing in popularity world-wide. She is the new Queen of Heaven of Jeremiah 44.

Even in the twelve stars in a circle being the symbol of the EU there is a clear reference to the goddess Queen of Heaven. The idea came to its designer, Strasborgh artist Arsene Heitz, a devout worshipper of Mary, being inspired from the medal of the Paris' Rue du Bac apparitions of the Virgin Mary. While announced as a symbol of plenty by the E.U. President upon its selection, the relationship to Mary was not lost on most Roman Catholics.

(Continued on next page.)



TIME Magazine's United Europe!



(Top Far Left) Flag of PanEuropean Union established in 1923, a precursor of the European Union. Cross is the symbol of Roman Catholic Christianity and sun symbolizes the European civilization enlightening the world. After the Second World War, the flag was used by the European Parliamentary Union. The PanEuropean Union is credited with some of the influence which led to the European Union. It's base is largely Austro-Hungarian, and entirely Roman Catholic. (Bottom Far Left) Flag of the European Union. (Left and Right Center) Pictures that inspired the EU symbol designer showing Mary as Queen of the Universe with a twelve star halo. (Far Right) Modern day use of Europa (the secular counterpart of the Virgin Mary) still riding her bull.



Mary's symbolism is stamped on every license plate (above left), every European Euro (above center), and even on the Vatican coinage, surrounding in this case, Pope John Paul II's head (above right), and the Vatican is not even a member of the European Union nor has it applied as yet.

Adrian Hilton writes in the *Spectator*, “*the issue of European religious union is one that has been concealed even deeper than the plans for political union, but the ratchet towards a Catholic Europe is just as real. The Pope’s recent demand that ‘God’ be featured in the emerging European constitution has been echoed by many leading Catholic politicians and bishops. While on the surface such a reference may offend only Europe’s atheist and humanist contingent, it must be observed that when the Vatican refers to God, she sees herself as God’s infallible vice-regent upon earth, the leading organ of divine expression; indeed, according to its publication ‘Dominus Iesus’ [5 September 2000], as the only mediator in the salvation of God’s elect, insisting that all other Churches, including the Church of England, ‘are not Churches in the proper sense’.*”

Europe is almost numb to this syncretism since much of it is Roman Catholic (even if only nominally), and educated on the classical system with an emphasis on Greek and Roman philosophy. On the other hand, North America is almost totally ignorant of it and any exposés are easily dismissed as right-wing religious or conspiracy theory extremism. And yet, with centuries of such syncretism as his foundation, the Pope, when visiting Athens in 2000, unembarrassingly said to the President of Greece: “*The inculturation of the Gospel in the Greek world remains an example for all inculturation.*” In context, this was an effort to extol the great contributions of the ancient Greek world to the church through this process of inculturation/a.k.a. syncretism. In typical mischievous subtlety, some truth always provides the air of legitimacy that fish need to swallow a hook. The hook in this case is that he also has in mind Plato and pagan Greek philosophy which is substantially absorbed and metamorphosed at the root of the Roman Church.

Most North Americans (even many Roman Catholic North Americans), not having been raised in the context of a Roman Catholic dominated Continental Europe or Latin America, don’t understand the significance of this. What has happened is that the mischievous subtleties of Roman Catholic syncretism have so inculturated and permeated both the history and thus the culture of Europe (outside a few nominally Protestant states which it attempted to subjugate through both WWI and WWII) that we are seeing the probable reemergence of a twenty-first Century Holy Roman Empire. This is extremely significant politically (explaining many of the difficulties between the U.S. and France, Germany and Russia) but also why Protestant evangelicalism has taken on the same virtual philosophy as Roman Catholicism in its missionary attempts in Europe.

We will continue this subject over the next few newsletters. In closing though, let’s ask ourselves, “So what?” What is the point of all this information, interesting as

it is? The point is simply that we are up against a far more formidable enemy in the Roman Catholic Church than most people are aware. We now understand better its mischievous subtlety and the reason why it is called “the most impressive religious machine.” We additionally can understand why it is important that the axe must be laid to the root of this lie. We need to first be aware of this syncretism and how it has infected every doctrine in the Roman Catholic Church, no matter what words are used to make it sound like the same thing. Statements to the effect that Mary is not worshipped simply are mischievous subtleties intended to confuse. Sending a missionary into a staunch Roman Catholic country, who does not understand the depths of their depravity and their intention to keep the masses in their mystical confusion, borders on clear wastefulness, if not sinful neglect.

In the midst of such darkness, there are growing sparks of light popping up here and there around Italy. Many, like Dr. Fraco Maggiotto (1937-2006), have broken free of the delusions taught and maintained over the centuries. That Light is shining forth in the midst of this great darkness. Many feel the Roman Catholic Church is insurmountable on the premise that Scripture predicts that it will prevail until the Lord returns. However one wishes to view that, there is one thing on which the Scriptures are most clear: we have no command to roll over and play dead, rather to continue attacking this enemy of God with the truth of the biblical Gospel.

Is there any hope? Oh most definitely! Despite its mischievous subtlety, it has surrounded itself with the gates of hell, i.e. spiritual darkness. Yet the Bible says that the *gates of hell shall not prevail against the church* (Matthew 16:18). How that will play out in time and space remains to be seen, but the command is clear, “*make disciples of all nations*” including those currently substantially blinded by Romanism. Because of its “wolf in sheep’s clothing” history and style, we must not be lulled into compromise or cooperation. We must pray for and work for the conversions of Roman Catholics around the world and not be lulled into thinking they are Christians, even though some may claim that name.

Please pray as we work as a team to open the eyes of the blind and bring forth the true light of Jesus Christ to those held in the Christo-pagan blindness of Roman Catholicism and its sister-churches of darkness, the Orthodox Churches. The future is bright, since light always prevails against darkness as God wills it to.

 Geoffrey Donnan

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