

"POPE FRANCIS COMES TO AMERICA"
"ALL POPE ALL OF THE TIME"

INTRO: Over the past week Pope Francis of the Roman Catholic Church came to the United States and visited Washington, DC, New York City and Philadelphia. His visit to America has been widely covered by all the press to the point that one FOX news reporter said this week it is "ALL POPE ALL THE TIME," and that is about right. No matter what denomination one may be, the Roman Catholic Pope has captured the attention of all American people, both secular and spiritual. Let's take some time to examine the Pope's visit from the biblical perspective.

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I. HOW HAS AMERICA EXPERIENCED THE VISIT OF POPE FRANCIS?

- A. The Security Perspective: More national security than for anyone in the history of our Nation.
- B. The Financial Perspective: Various figures have been given but it could be as high as \$418 million covered by tax payers, businesses and special organizations.
- C. The Political Perspective: The Pope had very high respect.
 - 1. Addressed a Joint-Session of Congress
 - The first time this was ever done.
 - 2. Addressed the United Nations
 - The first time this was ever done as the Pope spoke to nearly 200 world leaders. On FOX news reporter said, "THE UNITED NATIONS IS THE SECULAR TEMPLE OF THE WORLD BUT TODAY IT WILL MEET THE 'REAL DEAL'."
- D. The Religious Perspective: The Pope was virtually worshipped by people of every denomination.
- E. The Media Perspective: Every major media outlet pre-empted programs to cover the Pope.
- F. The National Perspective: Millions were fascinated with the Pope.
- G. The Secular Perspective: Many people who have no real religious faith were in "awe" of the Pope.
- H. The Civic Perspective:
 - 1. Many roads, streets and highways were closed.
 - 2. 700 churches were closed in Philadelphia.

II. WHY IS THERE A POPE?

- A. The Catholics derived the position of the Pope from Matthew 16:18 but it is a false interpretation. By contrasting Himself with Peter Christ was saying that HE, "**This Rock**," ("**Petra**"-**Large massive unmoveable stone**) was the one upon which the church would be built and that Peter ("**Petros**"-**Small moveable pebble**) would be involved with spreading the message of the Gospel.
- B. Jesus Christ is the "**Chief Cornerstone**" of the Church - Ephesians 2:20.

III. WHERE DOES THE WORD OF GOD CALL FOR A POPE?

- A. No where does the Bible call for a Pope.
- B. The Bible calls for only two spiritual offices in the church which are the Pastor and the Deacon - 1 Timothy 3:1-13

IV. WHAT IS THE BASIC MESSAGE OF THE POPE?

- A. In America this week he has spoken on immigration, climate change, the family, the problem with fundamentalism, and providing for the poor.
- B. In Doctrine he teaches heresy.
 - 1. A basic salvation of works.
 - 2. An unbiblical teaching of the Lord's Table.
 - 3. A ritualistic approach to worship.
 - 4. An unscriptural teaching of "Mariology" that results in "Mariolatry."
 - 5. A misunderstanding of who intercedes for mankind before God
 - 6. A low view of scripture but a high view of tradition.
 - 7. An unbiblical authority of the church.
 - 8. A false Gospel (Consider Galatians 1:6-10)

V. HOW DOES GOD RESPOND TO THE POPE?

NOTE: The Pope has been highly exalted, worshipped and practically set up as God in America this week. **GOD DOES NOT SHARE HIS GLORY WITH ANYONE!**

- A. 1 Samuel 6:20 - "**WHO IS ABLE TO STAND BEFORE THIS HOLY LORD GOD?**" (Spoken by the men of Bethshe-mesh after they looked into the Ark of the Lord after which God killed 5310 men)

B. Isaiah 42:8 - "I AM THE LORD: THAT IS MY NAME: AND MY GLORY WILL I NOT GIVE TO ANOTHER, NEITHER MY PRAISE TO GRAVEN IMAGES."

NOTE: IT IS SAD TO OBSERVE THAT IN ALL OF THE FESTIVITIES SURROUNDING THE POPE THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE MENTIONED ON THE GREATNESS OF GOD....IT HAS ALL BEEN ABOUT THE POPE!

VI. WHAT MUST CHRISTIANS DO IN LIGHT OF THE POPE COMING TO AMERICA?

- A. We Must Learn and Understand the Truth of the Word of God
-Proverbs 23:23
- B. We Must Exalt God Alone - Psalm 21:13.
- C. We Must Evangelize the Lost Religious and Non-Religious People.
-Mark 16:15
- D. We Must Earnestly Contend for the True Faith - Jude 3
- E. We Must Reveal and Separate from Spiritual Error - Romans 16:17,18
- F. We Must Personally Approach People who are promoting and following false doctrine - Jude 22,23
- F. We Must Pray for those who are "Caught-Up" in Religion
-Matthew 7:21-23