

THE JESUITS' CATHOLIC COUNTER REFORMATION

PRETERISM & FUTURISM

THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION HISTORICISM

Historicism

This term is used to describe a school of prophetic interpretation that conceives the fulfillment of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation as covering the historical period from the time of the prophet to the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth. These prophecies were given in visionary circles that recapitulate the content of the previous vision, adding new information or providing a slightly different perspective of the same historical period. Thus, for instance, Dan. 2, 7, 8–9, and 10–12 are parallel prophecies covering basically the same historical period. In Revelation the same type of recapitulation is employed in the interpretation of the messages to the seven churches, the seven seals, the seven trumpets, and Rev. 12–14.



Historicism

The validity of historicism as a method for the interpretation of Daniel and Revelation is provided by the fact that the angel interpreter in Daniel used this method in explaining the meaning of the visions to the prophet. In a dream he is informed that the dream of the king in Dan. 2 represents four kingdoms that will arise in human history before the kingdom of God is established (verses 36–45). The four beasts of Dan. 7 represent those same kingdoms, after which God will give the kingdom to the saints (verses 18, 19). The first kingdom was identified as Babylon (verses 36–38). In Dan. 8 two animals are used as symbols to represent the Medo-Persian and Greek empires (verses 19–21). The fourth kingdom is not identified in Daniel, but Jesus takes it to be Rome (Matt. 24:15). According to Daniel, this kingdom was to be divided, and a little horn would exercise political and religious control over the people. In the time of the end the horn is to be destroyed and God's kingdom established forever.

Historicism

Jesus used this method when He interpreted Dan. 9:26, 27 as referring to the future destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (Luke 21:20–22). **Paul also speaks about a series of successive prophetic events to be fulfilled within history before the second coming of Christ** (2 Thess. 2:1–12). Historicism as a method of interpretation is found in the Bible itself, and it provides the key for the interpretation of the apocalyptic books of Daniel and Revelation.

Historicism

The historicist approach to prophetic interpretation was ... up to the fifth century A.D. ... a significant shift in prophetic interpretation occurred when Augustine defined the kingdom of God as the Christian church and spiritualized the millennium, making it a symbol of the Christian Era ... His views prevailed during the Middle Ages, until the period of the Protestant reform. **The Reformers restored historicism as the method to be used in the interpretation of Daniel and Revelation, and identified the papacy as a manifestation of the antichrist predicted in those books.**



For the reformers, the papacy is the man of sin: the antichrist

Martin Luther
(1483 – 1546)



nothing else than the kingdom of Babylon and of very **Antichrist**. For who is the **man of sin** and the son of perdition, but he who by his teaching and his ordinances increases the sin and perdition of souls in the church; while he yet sits in the church as if he were God? All these conditions have now for many ages been fulfilled by **the papal tyranny**.

First Principles, p. 196, 197



For the reformers, the papacy is the man of sin: the antichrist

John Calvin
(1509 – 1564)



Though it be admitted that Rome was once the mother of all Churches, yet from the time when it began to be the seat of Antichrist it has ceased to be what it was before. Some persons think us too severe and censorious when **we call the Roman Pontiff Antichrist**. But those who are of this opinion do not consider that they bring the same charge of presumption against Paul himself, after whom we speak and whose language we adopt .. I shall briefly show that **(Paul's words in II Thess. 2)** are not capable of any other interpretation than that which **applies them to the Papacy**.

Institutes of the Christian Religion, Vol.3, p.149



For the reformers, the papacy is the man of sin: the antichrist

John Wesley
(1703 – 1791)



... In many respects, **the Pope** has an indisputable claim to those titles. He is, in an emphatical sense, **the man of sin**, as he increases all manner of sin above measure. And he is, too, properly styled, the son of perdition, as he has caused the death of numberless multitudes, both of his opposers and followers, destroyed innumerable souls, and will himself perish everlastingly. He it is that opposeth himself to the emperor, once his rightful sovereign; and that exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped – Commanding angels, and putting kings under his feet, both of whom are called gods in scripture; claiming the highest power, the highest honour; suffering himself, not once only, **to be styled God or vice-God**. Indeed no less is implied in his ordinary title, “Most Holy Lord,” or, “Most Holy Father.” So that he sitteth – Enthroned. **In the temple of God** – Mentioned Rev. xi, 1. Declaring himself that he is God – Claiming the prerogatives which belong to God alone.

Explanatory Notes Upon The New Testament, p.216



For the reformers, the papacy is the man of sin: the antichrist

John Knox
(1505 – 1572)



Yea, to speak it in plain words; lest that we submit ourselves to Satan, thinking that we submit ourselves to Jesus Christ, for, as for your Roman kirk, as it is now corrupted, and the authority thereof, whereon stands the hope of your victory, I no more doubt but that it is the synagogue of Satan, and the head thereof, called **the pope**, to be that **man of sin**, of whom the **apostle speaks**.

The History of the Reformation of Religion in Scotland, p.65

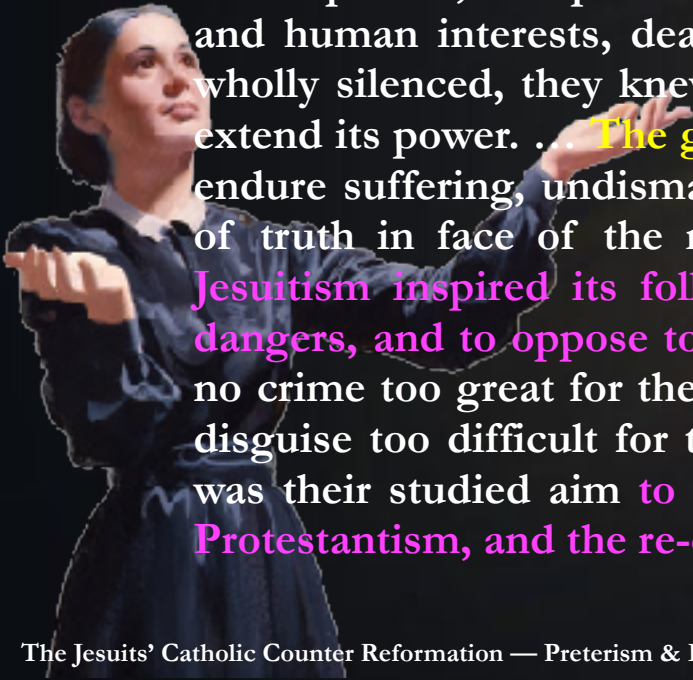


THE CATHOLIC
COUNTER REFORMATION
PRETERISM & FUTURISM



The Jesuits: agents of the papacy to suppress the Protestant Reformation

Throughout Christendom, Protestantism was menaced by formidable foes. **The first triumphs of the Reformation past, Rome summoned new forces, hoping to accomplish its destruction.** At this time **the order of the Jesuits was created,** the most cruel, unscrupulous, and powerful of all the **champions of popery.** Cut off from earthly ties and human interests, dead to the claims of natural affection, reason and conscience wholly silenced, they knew no rule, no tie, but that of their order, and no duty but to extend its power. . . . **The gospel of Christ** had enabled its adherents to meet danger and endure suffering, undismayed by cold, hunger, toil, and poverty, to uphold the banner of truth in face of the rack, the dungeon, and the stake. **To combat these forces, Jesuitism inspired its followers with a fanaticism that enabled them to endure like dangers, and to oppose to the power of truth all the weapons of deception.** There was no crime too great for them to commit, no deception too base for them to practice, no disguise too difficult for them to assume. Vowed to perpetual poverty and humility, it was their studied aim **to secure wealth and power, to be devoted to the overthrow of Protestantism, and the re-establishment of the papal supremacy.** GC 234.2



Two Jesuit workers of the Catholic Counter Reformation

Francisco de Ribera
(1537 – 1591)



Luis de Alcazar
(1554 – 1613)



Preterism & Futurism

During the second half of the sixteenth and the first half of the seventeenth century, Catholic counterinterpretations intended to meet the Protestant exposition of biblical apocalyptic were developed. Three learned Jesuits spearheaded Rome's attack on the historical approach, with the book of Revelation as the main focus.

The first of the alternative expositions was developed by Francisco Ribera (1537–1591). Ribera related the first few chapters of the Apocalypse to Rome in John's own time and applied the remaining chapters to a future three-and-a-half-year reign of an infidel antichrist at the end of the Christian dispensation. Subsequent commentators suggest that Ribera was the founder of the modern futurist system of interpretation, which later was developed by writers such as Samuel R. Maitland (1792–1866) and John N. Darby (1800–1882).



Preterism & Futurism

Robert Bellarmine (1542–1621), brilliant theologian and controversialist, **augmented the work of Ribera**, attacking particularly the prophetic day-for-a-year principle. Bellarmine sought especially to exploit the differences in the interpretations among his Protestant adversaries.

The second challenge was mounted by **Luis de Alcazar** (1554-c. 1613). Alcazar proposed that the book of Revelation addressed the victorious war of the church in the early centuries against the Jews and Roman paganism. **Since Alcazar's method applied the entire book of Revelation to the past, his system of interpretation has been labeled preterism.**



Preterism & Futurism

The proposals of Ribera and Alcazar diverted support from the Protestant application of the antichrist to the Papacy. The first consigned antichrist to the distant future; the second, to the remote past. Although these approaches were mutually exclusive, they deflected attention from the historical period of papal dominion.



THE REFORMATION OF THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST PIONEERS



SDA pioneers saw the papacy as the man of sin

1889 Fundamental Principles
of
Seventh-day Adventists



XIII. That as **the man of sin, the papacy,** has thought to change times and laws (the law of God, **Daniel 7:25**), and has misled almost all Christendom in regard to the fourth commandment, we find a prophecy of a reform in this respect to be wrought among believers just before the coming of Christ. Isaiah 56:1, 2; 1 Peter 1:5; Revelation 14:12, etc.

Papacy in the Bible

	Little horn Daniel 7	Man of sin 2 Thessalonians 2	Antichrist 1 & 2 John	Beast (of the sea) Revelation 13
Human	verses 8, 24	verse 3	2 Jn 7	verses 5, 6
Blasphem/Deny	verses 8, 21, 24	verse 4	1 Jn 2:18; 4:3; 2 Jn 7	verses 1, 5, 6
Oppose to God's law	verse 25	verse 3,4	1 Jn 2:22	verse 6
Persecute the faithfuls	verses 21, 25	•	•	verses 5, 7
Rule 1260 years	verse 25	•	•	verse 5
Already operates and will be manifested	•	verses 6,7	1 Jn 2:18; 4:3	•



THE COUNTER REFORMATION OF MODERN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISM

In 1980, the SDA Church did not left in her beliefs,

1980 Fundamental Beliefs
of
Seventh-day Adventists



no longer any reference to the papacy as
the man of sin.

<https://www.adventist.org/beliefs/>

The fundamental principles were changed under the presidency of Neal Wilson who declared



Our doctrines cannot be changed
without changing the nature of the
church.

After 1980, the organization named "Seventh Day Adventist" became Catholic



The convention concluded with a banquet in which **Robert Muller, associate secretary of the United Nations**, was the featured speaker. He is called the United Nations' "prophet of hope" **and** has a vibrant and optimistic philosophy of life. **His wife, Margarita**, accompanied him, and they **discovered that there is another universal and truly catholic organization, the Seventh-day Adventist Church.**



Neal and Ted Wilson



Neal and Ted Wilson
father and son

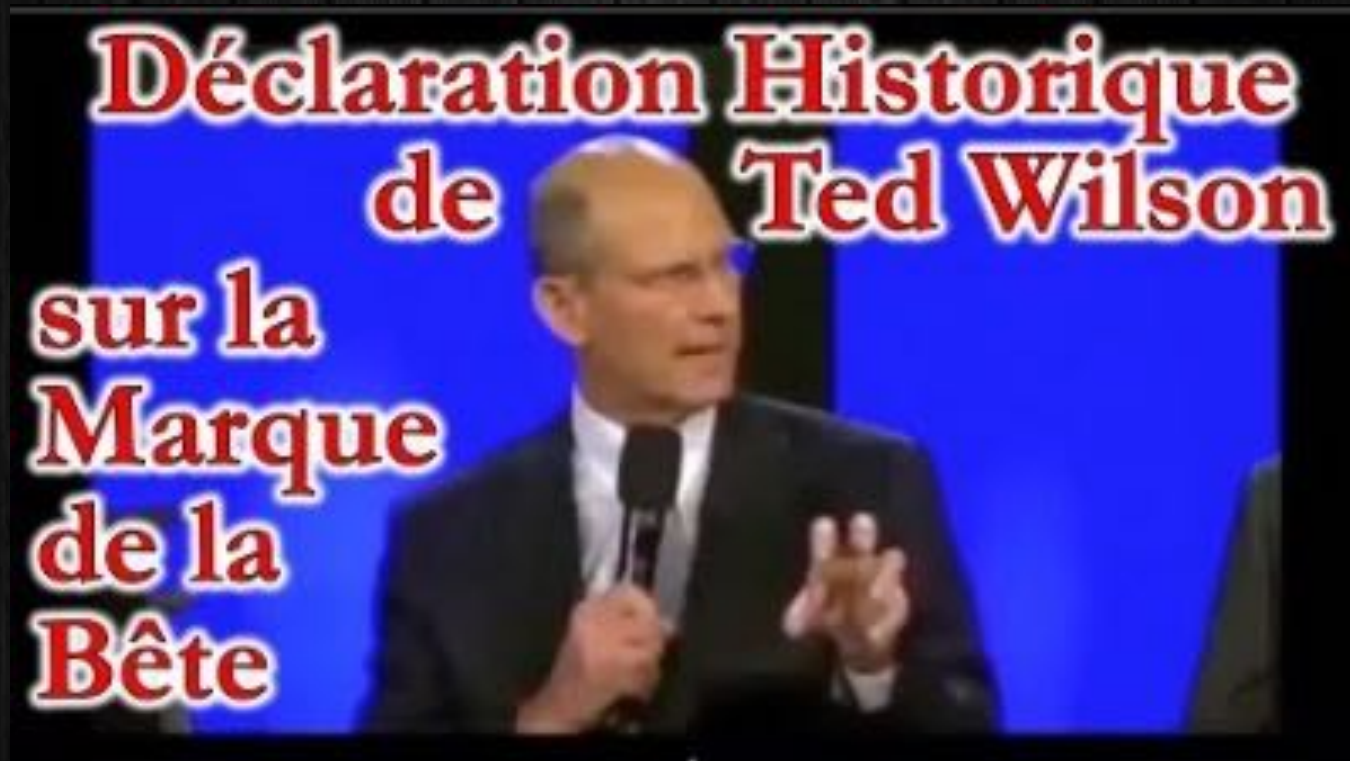


Neal Wilson
*President of the General Conference
from 1979 to 1990*



Ted Wilson
*President of the General Conference
from 2010 to ...*

Ted Wilson is unable to say: Papacy = Beast & Sunday = His mark



Daniel Milard teaches that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is above all Catholic



Karl Johnson and others teach that the Papacy should no longer be considered in the final prophecies

**L'Église Adventiste du 7^e Jour est
en train d'abandonner
son message
prophétique**



Many "independent ministries" are workers of this counter-reformation. But how to recognize them?

Jesuit consequences are indicative of Jesuit influences

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Matthew 7:15-20 (KJV)



Jesuit consequences are indicative of Jesuit influences

... The **Jesuits** rapidly spread themselves over Europe, and **wherever they went, there followed a revival of popery.** GC 235.1



Previous similar presentations



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwoU6n-J9VM>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWcCuZ4kTxI>

CONTINUING THE REFORMATION

The modern SDA organization announced its resistance in apostasy since 1979



Our doctrines cannot be changed without changing the nature of the church. Let the word go out from this Annual Council that any attempt to tear down the pillars of the faith will be resisted.



The modern SDA organization confirmed its resistance in apostasy in 2012



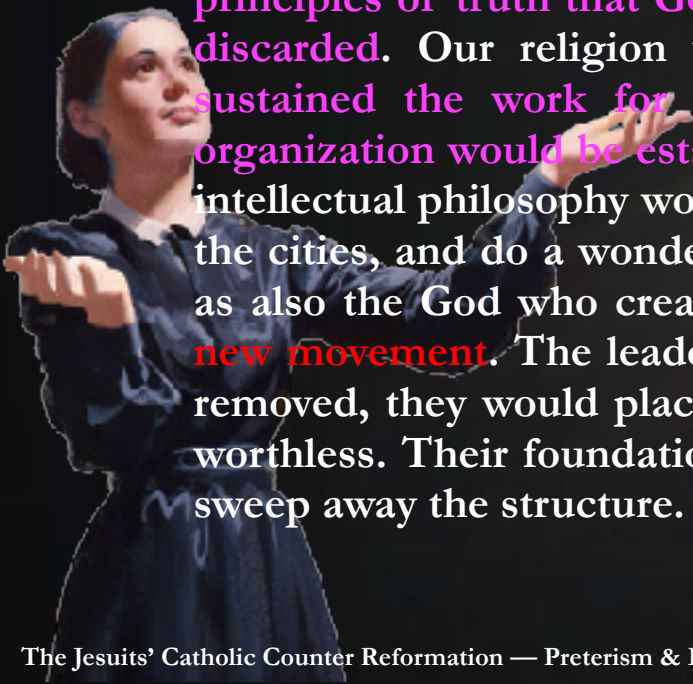
The Triune God

Though some early Adventists struggled with the doctrine, our church today has taken a firm and unrelenting stand on this teaching. As Fundamental Belief number 2 says, “There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons.”



This resistance in apostasy was predicted

The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. **Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement.** The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure. 1SM 204.2



Christians should hold firmly to the apostolic teaching on the man of sin and not associate with those who do not submit to it

2:3 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. 15 Therefore, brethren, **stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught**, whether by word, or **our epistle**. 3:14 And **if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him**, that he may be ashamed.

2 Thessalonians 2:3,4,15; 3:14 (KJV)



How could you condemn this apostasy while supporting it with your presence, your action and your means?

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. **12** For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. **13** But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

Ephesians 5:11-13 (KJV)



Your past ignorance is not a reason for your present impenitence

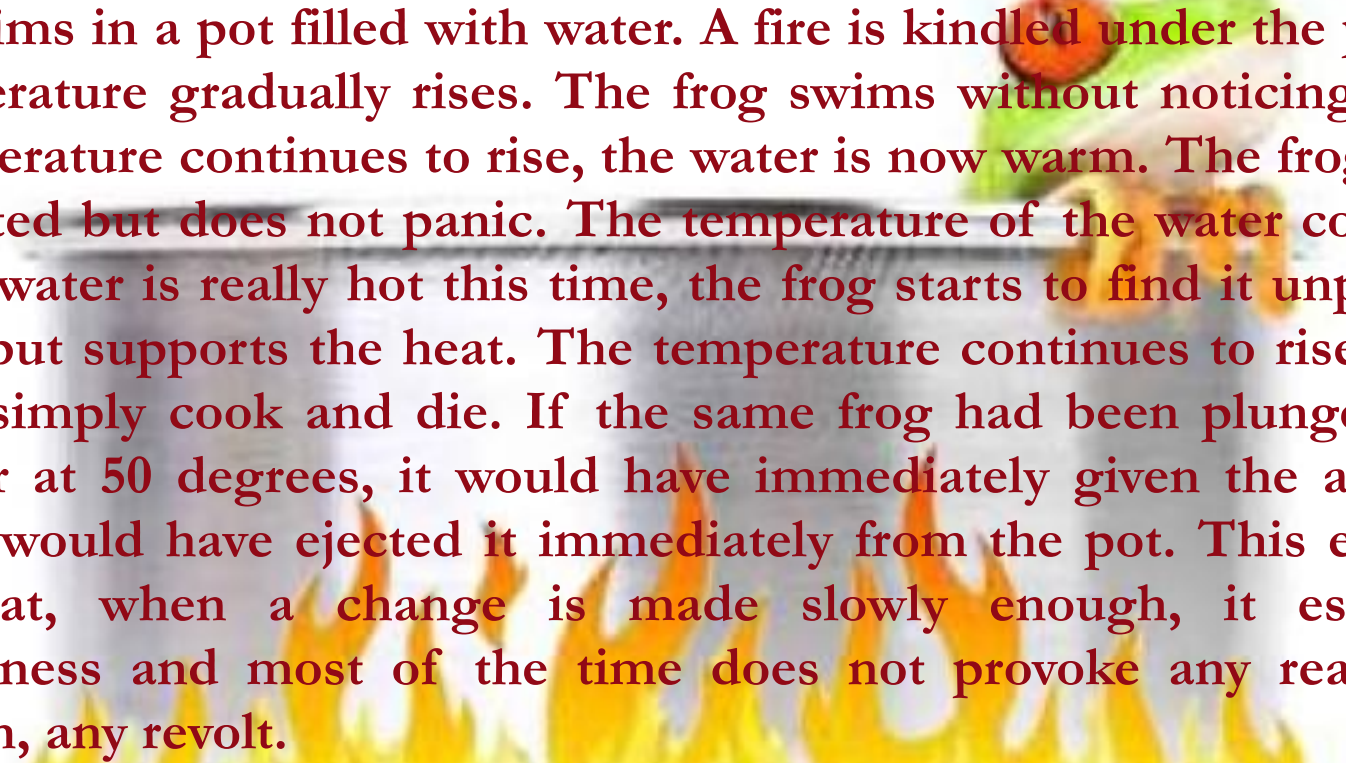
And now, brethren, I wot that **through ignorance ye did it**, as did also your rulers.

Acts 3:17 (KJV)

And the times of this ignorance **God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:**

Acts 17:30 (KJV)



A background image showing a green frog sitting in a pot of water. The pot is placed on a surface over a fire with bright yellow and orange flames. The frog is looking towards the viewer.

A frog swims in a pot filled with water. A fire is kindled under the pot so that the temperature gradually rises. The frog swims without noticing anything. The temperature continues to rise, the water is now warm. The frog becomes less agitated but does not panic. The temperature of the water continues to rise. The water is really hot this time, the frog starts to find it unpleasant, it weakens but supports the heat. The temperature continues to rise, until the frog will simply cook and die. If the same frog had been plunged directly into water at 50 degrees, it would have immediately given the appropriate kick that would have ejected it immediately from the pot. This experiment shows that, when a change is made slowly enough, it escapes the consciousness and most of the time does not provoke any reaction, any opposition, any revolt.



Leave the papist assemblies through baptism into Jesus: into the Truth

³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same **Jesus, whom ye have crucified**, both Lord and Christ.

³⁷ **Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?**

³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

³⁹ For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

⁴⁰ And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, **Save yourselves from this untoward generation.** ⁴¹ **Then they that gladly received his word were baptized:** and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

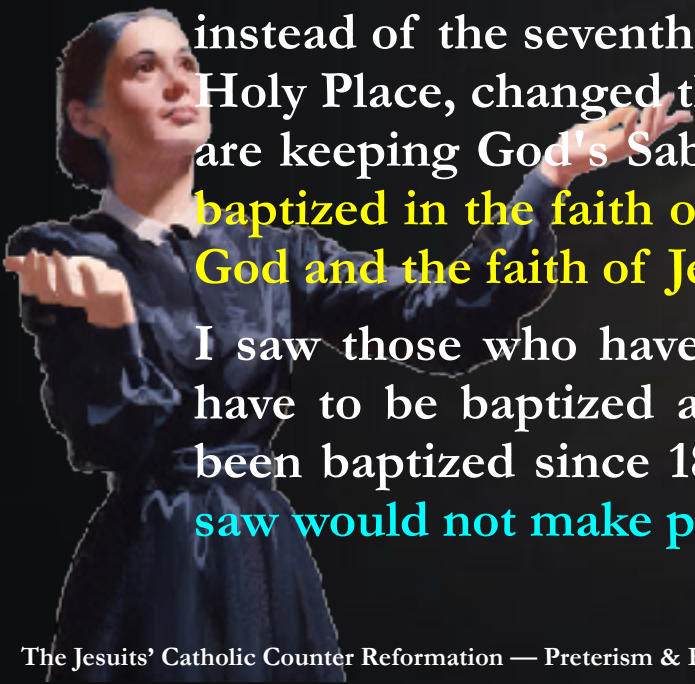
Acts 2:36-41 (KJV)



Leave the papist assemblies through baptism into Jesus: into the Truth

Then I saw **those whose** hands are engaged in making up the breach and are standing in the gap, that have formerly since 1844 broken the commandments, and **have so far followed the pope** as to keep the first day instead of the seventh, and who have since the light shone out of the Most Holy Place, changed their course, given up the institution of the pope, and are keeping God's Sabbath, **would have to go down into the water, and be baptized in the faith of the sanctuary, and keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.** SpM 3.7

I saw those who have been baptized as a door into the churches, would have to be baptized again as a door into the faith. Those who have not been baptized since 1844 will have to be before Jesus comes. And **some I saw would not make progress till the duty was performed.** SpM 3.8





<https://www.youtube.com/LeReste>



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