

CHAPTER 20

“Today, class, we are going to learn about a contemporary of Martin Luther,” Mr. Dell began his lecture. “Here is the famous picture we often think of when we envision the fearless, dedicated leader of the Reformation.



<http://images.google.ca/imgres?imgurl=http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/25/Martin-Luther-1532>

“Martin Luther, although born in a humble home, was used by God to shake the very foundations of the Roman Church in the sixteenth century. Most of you will remember his strong opposition to Tetzl who was selling indulgences to raise money for completing St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. When he nailed his famous *95 Theses* against indulgences to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Martin Luther began a chain of events that changed the history of Christianity forever. He paved the way for the rediscovery of forgotten Bible truths such as 'the just shall live by faith' and 'the priesthood of all believers.' Although many applauded a return to the Scriptures, that outspoken Dominican monk had challenged the authority of the pope and that challenge had to be met.

“The papacy found an able defender and strategist in Ignatius Loyola. Loyola, the son of a Spanish nobleman, had been badly injured in battle. While he waited for his severely damaged legs to heal, Loyola had plenty of time to contemplate life. He began to formulate something he called *Spiritual Exercises*. For four or five hours at a time Ignatius would self-hypnotize himself - visualizing the cradle of the Nativity or followed Jesus through His travels in Palestine. He would try to use all five senses to place himself right into the Bible story. Through his imagination he would visualize the scene until he could 'see' the colors, 'hear' the sounds, 'smell' the aromas, 'touch' the people or surroundings, and 'speak' with those present.

“We are told that for many months he afflicted his body by starving himself, wearing hair shirts (I imagine that alone would be enough to drive a sane man crazy!) and depriving himself of sleep. In the hospital Ignatius also had hallucinations. He experienced a repetitive vision which appeared as 'a form in the air near him and this form gave him much consolation because it was exceedingly

beautiful ... It somehow seemed to have the shape of a serpent and had many things that shone like eyes, but were not eyes. He received much delight and consolation from gazing upon this object ... but when the object vanished he became disconsolate' (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ignatius_of_Loyola).

“Some years after formulating his *Spiritual Exercises*, Ignatius Loyola and a band of six loyal followers visited the pope and offered him their services. Perhaps one famous quote of Loyola's will illustrate the mindset of Loyola and his men: 'That we may be altogether of the same mind and in conformity with the Church herself, if she shall have defined anything to be black which appears to our eyes to be white, we ought in like manner to pronounce it to be black. For we must undoubtingly believe, that the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Spirit of the Orthodox Church His Spouse, by which Spirit we are governed and directed to Salvation, is the same' (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ignatius_of_Loyola).



www.gonzaga.ie/home/files/032IgnatiusLoyola.jpg

“I am sorry to have to state that Loyola's methods are alive and well in many Christian Churches today, although modified a little to meet the needs of today's worshipers. Today, Loyola's *Spiritual Exercises* are being introduced to Protestants as a new way to get close to God through prayer and meditation. You should be aware that if someone asks you to close your eyes, relax your hands and legs and visualize sitting on the hillside listening to Jesus teach – or something similar – that you are being led through Ignatius Loyola's *Spiritual Exercises*. The “buzz words” being used are “Guided Imagery” or “Spiritual Renewal”, however such 'exercises' are a form of hypnosis and Christians must have nothing to do with them. We can't afford to have our minds tricked into calling 'black' 'white' or 'evil' 'good'.

“That's a little history lesson, class, but now let's get to our book. Today our chapter is entitled:

Intrigue in India

To really understand the undermining of Christianity in India we need to look at the life of Ignatius Loyola. Loyola, a contemporary of Martin Luther, stood as the antithesis of the brave Reformer. While Martin Luther struggled to build up the Protestant cause on a Biblical foundation, Loyola plotted how to destroy it. Although both men began their lives as devout Roman Catholics, Loyola's choices led him in an opposite direction from that of Luther.

Early in their lives both Loyola and Luther saw areas of their characters that were not Christlike. Each had to decide how to remedy his undesirable traits. Luther opened the Scriptures and there he found a Saviour. He discovered that those who had faith in Jesus were empowered to live a righteous life and he desired to be transformed into the likeness of Christ. Loyola, on the other hand, looked to impressions, dreams and visions to help quiet his troubled conscience.

While Martin Luther used voice and pen to build up the Protestant Reformation, Ignatius Loyola developed the Roman Catholic order known as the Society of Jesus. Better known as the Jesuits, this new Order was founded on August 15, 1534. Loyola created a special training process which he called *Spiritual Exercises*. This method allowed him to become the "mind" of his followers. He would take young men and demanded their absolute allegiance. His *Spiritual Exercises* were so effective that at the end of the training period Loyola had complete control over the minds of his disciples. *The Great Controversy* p. 234 tells us, "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. ... 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."

To give you an idea of what "dead" and "cut off" means, we will quote some phrases from the Jesuit Oath: "I do further promise and declare, that I will have no opinion or will of my own, or any mental reservation whatever...but will unhesitatingly obey each and every command that I may receive from my superiors in the Militia of the Pope and of Jesus Christ. ...I furthermore promise and declare that I will, when opportunity present, make and wage relentless war, secretly or openly, against all heretics, Protestants and Liberals, as I am directed to do, to extirpate and exterminate them from the face of the whole earth; and that I will spare neither age, sex or condition."

From their beginning the Jesuits used deception with great success. They hid their real identity as Roman Catholics and joined churches and schools pretending to be Protestants. They became preachers and teachers and used sermons and lectures to alter the thinking of their listeners. Their strategy was extremely successful. We are told that by 1582, only forty-eight years after founding the Order, the Jesuits controlled two hundred eighty-seven colleges and universities in Europe.

Jesuits often became friends or advisors to influential government officials, heads of universities and churches and of course the powerful and wealthy. They then used their influence to sway decisions and enact laws that would benefit Rome.

They also developed unique ways to deal with their enemies. You may remember the story of how Nero purposely set a fire that destroyed much of Rome. To avoid suspicion, he accused the Christians of starting the fire, then sentenced many of them to death. Like Nero, Jesuits would create disasters then blame their enemies for the tragedy. Yet they are regarded as humanitarians by quickly organizing support for those affected by the very tragedies they themselves started. Today we have labeled this deceitful practice "creative destruction."

Soon the powerful Jesuits began to influence the papal agenda. Experts on the papacy say

that the “Black Pope” (the Jesuit’s leader) is the real power in the Vatican, rather than the “White Pope.” History tells us that the Jesuits controlled the Council of Trent (1545 – 1563) which was convened to define the doctrines of the papacy and to formulate a plan to counteract the Protestant Reformation. That Council passed four decrees which further separated the Roman Church from the Protestant Church. They declared the Vulgate to be the true Bible (rather than the *Textus Receptus* or Received Text) and they voted to accept tradition as an equal authority with Scripture. The Council also acknowledged the Apocrypha as part of Scripture and declared that only priests had Church approval to interpret the Scriptures.

Of course when Protestant leaders heard these decrees they protested. They used Scripture to defend their position and it became clear that this was a debate between obeying God or following man-made traditions. That greatly weakened the papacy’s power and many people joined the Protestant Reformation. Rome watched the commotion with a great deal of concern. How could they regain their lost power?

The solution came from the archbishop of Rheggio. He addressed the Council of Trent and reminded them that the Protestants, who claimed to follow “the Bible and the Bible only”, would never be able to defend the sacredness of Sunday worship from the Bible. “It is then evident that the church has power to change the commandments,” argued the archbishop - and of course the Council agreed. The Roman Church was greatly encouraged as they realized that eventually they would regain their control over Protestants through the doctrine of Sunday sacredness.

In *The Liberty of Christian Doctrines* p. 3,4 Rome challenged Protestants: “Why do you then keep holy Sunday instead of Saturday? ... You are a Protestant, and you profess to go by the Bible and the Bible only, and yet in so important a matter as the observance of one day in seven as a holy day you go against the plain letter of the Bible and put another day in the place of the day the Bible has commanded. ... The present generation of Protestants keep Sunday holy instead of Saturday because they received it as part of the Christian religion from the last generation ...and so on - backward from one generation to another by a continual succession until we come to the time of the so-called Reformation when it so happened that those who conducted the change of religion of this country left this particular portion of Catholic faith and practice untouched. ... In outward act we do the same as yourself in this matter; we too no longer observe the ancient Sabbath, but Sunday instead. But there is this important difference between us. We do not pretend, as you do, to derive our authority for doing so from a book, but we derive it from a living teacher and that teacher is the Church. We Catholics then have precisely the same authority for keeping Sunday holy, instead of Saturday, as we have for every other article of our creed – namely the authority of the Church of the Living God, ‘the pillar and ground of truth,’ (1 Timothy 3:15) whereas you who are Protestants have really no authority for it in the Bible” (Also found in the book, *The Pope King Again*, by Alonzo Baker, 119 – 122).

As we have seen, the seventh-day Sabbath has been under attack through most of Christian church history. Sometimes hatred for the Sabbath was hidden under the smokescreen of another issue, but usually at the core of every denunciation was the individual’s or church’s obedience to God’s law rather than to man’s. That same hatred for Sabbathkeeping was seen when the Roman Church arrived in India.

It was in 1560 that the powerful Portuguese army arrived in India. At that time, tiny but mighty Portugal had settlements around the world - from Africa through the Middle East to India, China and islands as far away as the Philippians. Portugal’s conquests were often seen as crusades rather than merely a desire for political control. In other words, it was a struggle for religious

domination.

The Portuguese men-of-war were infamous for their cruelty. One story tells how a friend of Vasco da Gama, the commander of Portugal's fleet, was killed in a battle with Muslims. Furious, da Gama set out to punish the perpetrators. On the way he spotted a ship full of pilgrims returning from Mecca. The Arabs knew of da Gama's cruelty and offered a large sum of money to continue their journey in peace. After accepting the bribe money da Gama ordered his men to burn the ship. Those on board managed to extinguish the fire but the Portuguese ordered the fires reset while mothers held up their babies and begged for mercy.

The Portuguese showed that same cruelty as they began their assault on India. First, they seized control of the strongly fortified city of Goa and named it their new capital. Along with the military came the Jesuits, whose aim it was to "convert" the St. Thomas Christians to Catholicism. The Inquisition used various tortures to "persuade" the Church of the East to become Catholics. Their favorite methods included drowning, the rack (which slowly pulled the body apart) and the well-known practice of burning people at the stake. Loyal Christians endured unimaginable horrors for remaining firm to the truths of the Bible. Many were thrown into filthy, rodent-infested prisons while others were condemned to serve in the galleys.

Dr. Wilkinson declared that the main reason for the Jesuits' anger against the St. Thomas Christians was that they were Sabbathkeepers. George Rae quotes Dr. Dellon as saying, "In the remote parts of the diocese, as well as towards the south as towards the north, the Christians that dwell in the heaths are guilty of working and merchandizing on Sundays and holy days, especially in the evenings" (quoted in *Truth Triumphant* 320).

This Dr. M.G. Dellon, a French physician, was arrested by the Inquisition while traveling through India in 1674. Although he was not a true believer in God he felt sorry for those he saw being tortured in the prison. He chronicled the burning of a man and woman along with the bones of four other heretics. Their "crime," according to Dr. Dellon, was that they "were said to have Judaized." Again we can see Satan's great hatred for those who "keep the commandments of God" (Revelation 14:12).

When the Jesuits arrived in India they began a rival school. Although the Jesuit graduates spoke and dressed like the Syrian Christians, they were trained in the doctrines and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. The St. Thomas Christians wanted to keep their worship and doctrines pure and would not allow Jesuit graduates to preach in their churches. This of course angered the papists and they besieged the Syrian leaders with spies.

The Vatican appointed Alexis de Menezes as the archbishop of Goa. His orders were to wipe out India's heresy. He demanded the leader of the Syrian Church, Archdeacon George, obey the doctrines of Rome but "he refused, saying that the St. Thomas Christians had always been, and always would be, independent of Rome" (*Truth Triumphant* 321). The Indian Christians were so upset with their oppressors that they formed their own army and forced the Jesuits to leave India. Some of the people were so angry they could barely be restrained from killing their persecutors on the spot.

Unfortunately, their freedom didn't last long. In January of 1599 Menezes arrived in Cochin, India. He was given a warm welcome by the rajah of that area. Earlier, the Portuguese fleet had rid the territory of pirates, and in gratitude the rajah arranged an elaborate party for Menezes. Archdeacon George saw the favor with which the papal leader was received and felt it would be wise to keep in his good graces. When summoned to meet with Menezes, Archdeacon George came forward and kissed his hand. During the talks that followed, the Archdeacon agreed to allow Menezes to preach and have mass in the Syrian churches. The

Archdeacon's plan was to avoid confrontation through compromise. He believed that when Menezes eventually left India their religious worship would again return to normal for the St. Thomas Christians.

Unfortunately things didn't go as Archdeacon George hoped. One day during a church service Menezes heard the St. Thomas Christians pray for the Catholicos of Baghdad, who was referred to as the universal pastor of their churches. The Vatican's archbishop was furious. He called together all the teachers, students, pastors and leaders and in a frenzy declared that the pope was the only universal leader. He vehemently declared the Catholicos a heretic. He furthermore drafted a document saying that anyone who prayed for the Patriarch of Baghdad would be excommunicated. Archdeacon George knew that out in the harbor were Portuguese war ships full of soldiers ready to do Menezes' bidding. In order to avoid bloodshed, Archdeacon George, along with pastors and church leaders, reluctantly agreed to sign the document.

Menezes rapidly began to force changes upon the St. Thomas Christians. He began to preach in the churches and although he had promised not to speak on Roman Catholic doctrine he immediately began to undermine the beliefs and practices of the St. Thomas Christians. To further strengthen the papal cause, Menezes only ordained young men who recognized the pope as the head of the church and who agreed to teach Roman Catholic theology.

After gaining control of the churches, Archbishop Menezes forced Archdeacon George to call a general council of all the churches in India. History tells us that on June 20, 1599 the Syrian Church gave up her independence. There were almost a thousand representatives at that meeting and Menezes controlled the agenda from the beginning. He opened the meeting then proceeded to celebrate the Roman Catholic mass. His sermon stressed the need for obedience to the pope and to the doctrines of the Roman Church.

Delegates was forced to sign their acceptance to the various decrees that were presented:

- The Latin Vulgate would replace the Syrian Bible.
- The mass was to be recognized and performed along with penance, confession, adoration of images, indulgences and the worship of the Virgin Mary.
- The carefully preserved records, history and doctrinal books of the Syrian church were to be changed or destroyed.
- All ministers were to be celibate. Those who were already married must immediately abandon their wife and children.

Other changes included beginning the official "day" at midnight rather than at sundown as had been practiced. That made it easier to introduce Sunday reverence and worship. It also paved the way for those who insisted on keeping the Sabbath to be excommunicated. All who were labeled by the Roman Church as apostates were burned at the stake.

When people have known and loved truth they do not easily accept error in its place. That was the case with the St. Thomas Christians. Dr. Wilkinson puts it this way, "They loathed the worship of images, the adoration of relics, processions, incense, confessional, and all the ceremonies their fathers knew not. They longed for the crystal streams of the Scriptures. They yearned for the literature which the church had fostered since the days of the apostles" (*Truth Triumphant* 329).

An organized protest was sparked when the Catholicos at Baghdad sent a new leader to India. The Roman leaders refused to acknowledge his authority and promptly burned him at the stake. There was outrage at this murder and a crowd of people began to gather by a huge cross near Cochin to object to the papacy's cruel control. Thousands renounced their

allegiance to Rome.

At that time two distinct groups formed within India's Christian fellowship. As Dr. Wilkinson quotes, "The result," says Adeney, 'was a split of the Syrian Church, one party adhering to the papal church as Bomo-Syrians, while the more daring spirits reverted to the Syrian usages. It is estimated that the former, known as Puthencoor, or the new community, now number about 110,000, while the latter, the Palayacoor, or old community, amount to about 330,000" (*Truth Triumphant* 330).

As we look at the difficulties found in India today, we are saddened to realize that if true Christian values had continued to flourish in India we would see much less poverty, heartache and pain. By dividing the Church of the East, Satan was able to undermine the influence of Christianity and thus paved the way for Hindu pagan practices to again control the people of that great subcontinent.

"I always feel a little depressed when we read that evil wins out," Emily sighed. "I guess that is why this battle between God and Satan is called a controversy. Sometimes God's side has the victory and other times Satan's side wins a skirmish."

"At least the Bible tells us how the war is going to end," Jeremy interjected.

"That should help to keep our eyes focused upward, Jeremy," agreed Mr. Dell. "To close our class today let's take out our Bibles and read parts of Revelation chapter 21 and 22. Aaron, will you read Revelation 21:1-4 for us please."

Aaron found the passage and began to read, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

"And Carrie, please read chapter 22 verses 1 to 5."

Carrie read slowly, "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."

"That's the goal, class," Mr. Dell commented. "Let's always keep this glorious future before us. That way we won't become discouraged because we know that there is eternity with the Father and Jesus for those that overcome. Let's covenant to be there, shall we?"

B.G. Wilkinson, *Truth Triumphant: The Church in the Wilderness* (Teach Services, Brushton, New York, 1994) Chapter 20

Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy* (Pacific Press Publishing Association, Nampa, ID, 1971) Chapter 12

Web page for Jesuit Vow: <http://www.ianpaisley.org/article.asp?ArtKey=jesuit>

“Spiritual Formation”: (<http://www.sdadefend.com/MINDEX-S.htm>)

“Hidden Agendas” and “The Secret Behind Secret Societies” (part of the “Total Onslaught” series) by Walter J. Veith (www.amazingdiscoveries.org)

“Sleepwalking” by Victor Gill (www.amazingdiscoveries.org)