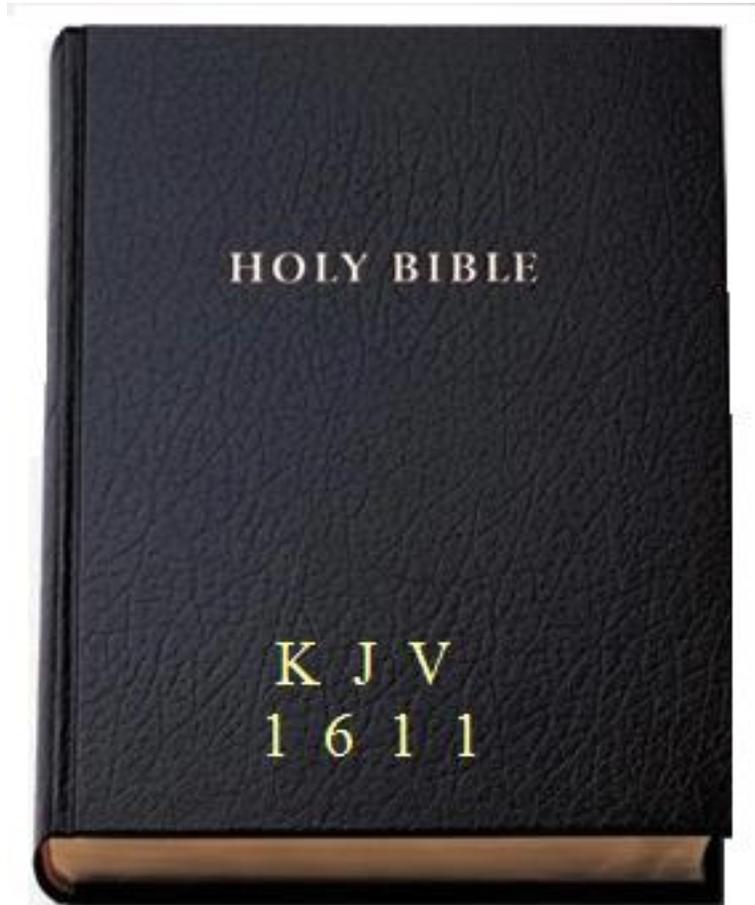


King James Bible Study



A Study Guide On
Roman Catholicism

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Roman Catholicism

I) BACKGROUND

The Roman Catholic Church professes to have its origin with Jesus Christ and the apostle Peter (Matt 16:18), but its true origin is with Cain (spiritually), Nimrod (institutionally), and Constantine (contemporary).

1) Past- Pagan Roots

1. Much of the doctrine, ritual, symbolism, and practice of the Roman Catholic Church originated with Nimrod (See: *The Two Babylons*; Alexander Hislop; 1916)
2. Much of the doctrine, ritual, and symbolism of the Roman Catholic Church existed in the religions of the pagans who compromised the children of Israel
 - Idol worship (Psa 96:5; Isa 44:15-20; 45:20)
 - Penance involving self-mutilation (1 Kin 18:28)
 - Worship of a female deity called, "the queen of heaven" (Jud 2:13; 3:7; Jer 44:17)
 - Drink offerings that contained the blood of their god (Psa 16:4)
 - Calling a priest "father" (Jud 17:10)
 - Special clothing for the "clergy" (Jud 17:10)
- 2) Much of the doctrine, ritual, symbolism, and practice of the Roman Catholic Church existed in the religion of the Pharisees (Matt 23)
 - Salvation by works (v.4)
 - Special reverence and treatment for "clergy" (v.6)

- Calling clergy "father" (v.9)
- Restraining people from the truth (v.13)
- Taking money from widows in exchange for spiritual favor (v.14)
- Missionary efforts (v.15)
- Gold in sanctuary or place of worship (v.16)
- The altar is the centerpiece of worship (v.18)
- Tradition an equal authority to the word of God (v.25)
- Responsible for killing the true saints (v.29-31)

3) Much of the doctrine, ritual, symbolism, and practice of the Roman Catholic Church existed in pagan Rome

- Churches
- Use of holy water and incense
- Tonsured priests presided over by a Pontifex Maximus (Caesar; the Pope)
- Claim to sacerdotal infallibility
- Adoration of visible representations of deity
- Kissing the feet of the "Pontifex Maximus"
- College of pontiffs ("cardinals" in Roman Catholicism)
- Worship of idols, images, and relics
- Worship of the queen of heaven
- Processions and festivals (e.g.- "Saturnalia", "Ishtar", etc.)
- Miracles of speaking, weeping, and bleeding images
- Deification of men ("canonization" and "prayers to saints" in Roman Catholicism)
- Cruel persecution of those who oppose it

4) The religious/political system of Nimrod is the same one of the scribes and Pharisees (with minor cosmetic changes); it is also the same one that currently exists as the Roman Catholic Church

- Roman= because it's center is at Rome

- Catholic= because it is universal in its authority, influence, and membership
- Church= because it is a congregational body (it is the counterfeit of the true church of God)

How could the scribes and Pharisees be guilty of all the righteous blood shed upon the earth (Matt 23:35) when they did not exist until the second century B.C.? It was their GENERATION (i.e.- “family; bloodline”) that was guilty. The father of this spiritual family is Satan (John 8:44) and the mother is Babylon the Great (Rev 17:5). The fact the same accusation made against the generation of the scribes and Pharisees is made against Babylon the Great (Rev 18:24), indicates the SYSTEM behind the names, rituals, and doctrines is meant.

2) Past- Political Roots

1. It is a UNION between church and state

- As Israel grew mightily in spite of the persecution in Egypt (Exo 1:11-12), so did the true church in spite of the ten imperial Roman persecutions (Rev 2:10)

The 10 Imperial Roman Persecutions

2. Nero (67-70 A.D.)
3. Domitian (81-? A.D.)
4. Trajan (108-138 A.D.)
5. Marcus Aurelius (162-? A.D.)
6. Severus (192-232 A.D.)
7. Maximinus (235-238 A.D.)
8. Decius (249-253 A.D.)
9. Valerian (257-260 A.D.)
10. Aurelian (274-287 A.D.)
11. Diocletian (303-313 A.D.)

- In 313 A.D., the Roman emperor Constantine was seemingly overwhelmed by the enemy forces of Maxentius as he prepared for the battle at Milvian Bridge
- At this time, he supposedly saw a vision of the "sign of the cross" (the aunkh) in the sky with the inscription, "IN HOC SIGNO VINCES" (i.e.- "In this sign conquer")
- Consequently, he inscribed the sign upon the shields of all his troops and vowed to embrace the God of Christianity if he was victorious
- Upon his victory, Constantine declared "Christianity" the state religion of the Roman Empire and issued the *Edict of Toleration (Milan)* putting an end to the persecution of Christians
- Constantine then set himself up as the leader of the church under the title, PONTIFEX MAXIMUS; a title also held by the Caesars as part of their claim to deity.

3) Past- Perverted Roots

2. "The Church" enacted laws in *councils* (the most notable ones being the Council of Nicea headed up Constantine and Eusebius in 325 A.D. and the Council of Trent in 1534 A.D.)
3. A variety of heresies began to infiltrate the church (approximate dates given)
 - Prayers for the dead (325 AD)
 - Making the sign of the cross (325 AD)
 - Veneration of angels, dead saints, and images (375 AD)
 - The Mass as a daily celebration (394 AD)
 - The worship of Mary and the use of the term "Mother of God" (431 AD)
 - Priests dress differently from the laity (500 AD)
 - Extreme Unction (526 AD)
 - The doctrine of purgatory (593 AD)

- Use of the Latin language as the language of prayer and worship (600 AD)
- Prayers directed to angels, dead saints, and Mary (600 AD)
- Title of "Pope" first given (607 AD)
- The kissing of the Pope's feet (709 AD)
- The temporal power of the popes (750 AD)
- Worship of the cross, images, and relics (788 AD)
- Holy water, mixed with a pinch of salt and blessed by a priest (850 AD)
- Worship of St. Joseph (890 AD)
- College of cardinals established (927 AD)
- Baptism of bells (965 AD)
- Canonization of dead saints (995 AD)
- Fasting on Fridays and during Lent (998 AD)
- The Mass as a perpetual sacrifice (1000 AD)
- Celibacy of the priesthood (1079 AD)
- The rosary (prayer beads) (1090 AD)
- The inquisition of heretics (1184 AD)
- The sale of indulgences (1190 AD)
- The doctrine of transubstantiation (1215 AD)
- Confession of sins to the priest (1215 AD)
- Veneration of the wafer (host) (1220 AD)
- Bible forbidden to laymen and placed on the Index of Forbidden Books (1229 AD)
- The scapular (1251 AD)
- The cup forbidden to the laity at communion (1414 AD)
- The doctrine of the 7 sacraments (1439 AD)
- The Ave Maria (1508 AD)
- Jesuit order formed by Ignatius Loyola (1534 AD)
- Tradition declared an equal authority with the Bible (1545 AD)
- The apocryphal books declared part of sacred canon (1546 AD)
- The immaculate conception of Mary (1854 AD)
- Papal infallibility (1870 AD)

- The Assumption of Mary (1950 AD)
 - Mary proclaimed "Mother of the Church" (1965 AD)
3. These perversions developed and perpetrated as a result of two things
 - Pagans seeking the advantages of being a "Christian", brought their gods, doctrines, and rituals with them into the Church
 - Christians fearing the resumption of persecution, wearied with living like refugees, and deceived by the pretenses of "the Church", compromised their God, doctrines, and principles by joining "the Church" (most through marriage) (Rev 2:14-15) cf. (Num 25:1-3)
 4. The gap between 1546-1854 was due to the Reformation and the Great Awakening
 5. These two great movements brought the Bible back into the hands of the common people (Rev 3:10)
 6. The resumption of heresy from 1854-present is due to the attack on the Bible (KJV) as the Christian's final authority and the lack of response from true Christians (2 The 2:3; Rev 3:15)
 7. The Roman Catholic Church is a continuation of the Roman Empire just in a different form (i.e.- Papal ("iron and clay") instead of Caesarian ("iron")) (Dan 2:40-43)
 8. The Roman Catholic Church is a combination of Baal worship, Judaism, Paganism, and Christianity
 9. Although the Roman Catholic Church, in its contemporary form, originated with Constantine, its spiritual and institutional roots trace back to Nimrod (Gen 11) and Cain (Gen 4)

II) BELIEFS

Final Authority/ The Bible

2. Assertion

3. The Church is the final authority because it is infallible in its teaching

"When the Church teaches solemnly in the name of God, the teaching is infallible, that is, it cannot be mistaken in matters of faith or morals." (New American Catechism, p. 188, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

"Private reading of the Scriptures, has led millions to the utter denial of Christ" (Question Box, 131)

"The Pope's letter is the most weighty authority in the church" (Cardinal Gibbons, in *Faith of Our Fathers*, 93)

2. The Bible is not a sufficient rule of faith; God's revelation is also contained in Church tradition (John 20:30; 21:25; 2 The 2:15; 3:6; 3 John 13,14)

"The Bible is not always historically accurate, because records were scarce in those centuries" (New American Catechism, p. 13, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

"The Bible is not intended to be the textbook of the Christian religion" (Catholic Facts, 50)

"By what right do you teach doctrines not found in the Bible? Because the origin of our faith is not in the Bible alone, but the Church which gives us both the written and the unwritten word" (Question Box, 75)

"The Scripture indeed is a divine book but it is a dead letter, which has to be explained...A dead and speechless book" (Our Priesthood, 155; Question Box, 67)

"We prohibit also the permitting of the laity to have the books of the Old and New Testament...We strictly forbid them to have the above mentioned books in the vulgar tongue" (Council of Valencia, 1229)

3. The seven books of the Apocrypha are inspired of God

"The sacred and holy, ecumenical, and general synod of Trent- lawfully assembled in the Holy Ghost- receives and venerates with an equal affection and piety and reverence, all the books of the Old and New Testaments...and it has thought it meet that a list of the sacred books be inserted in this decree, lest a doubt arise in anyone's mind, which are the books that are received of this synod. They are set down here below: of the Old Testament- the five books of Moses; to wit, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, four books of Kings, two of Paralipomenon (Chronicles), the first book of Esdras, and the second, which is entitled Nehemias; Tobias, Judith, Esther, Job, the Davidic Psalter, consisting of a hundred and fifty psalms, the Proverbs, Ecclesiasticus, Isaias, Jeremias, with Baruch, Ezechiel, Daniel, the twelve minor prophets; to wit, Osee, Joel, Amos, Abdias, Jonas, Micheas, Nahum, Habacuc, Sophonias, Aggaeus, Zacharias, Malachias; the two books of the Machabees, the first and the second. If anyone receive not, as sacred and canonical, the said books entire, with all their parts, as they have been used to be read in the Catholic Church, and as they are contained in the old Latin Vulgate edition: and knowingly and deliberately condemn the traditions aforesaid: Let him be anathema" (Council of Trent, Fourth Session, April 8, 1546)

3. Answer

1. The Bible is the only final authority

- It is all-sufficient (1 Cor 13:10; 2 Pet 1:3,19) and self-interpreting (1 Cor 2:13; 2 Pet 1:20) because the only infallible interpreter of the scriptures is the triune God (Gen 40:8; Ecc 8:1; Luke 24:45; John 16:13; 1 John 2:27) who indwells EVERY born-again believer (1 Cor 3:16; 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16; Col 1:27)
- It is the basis for all judgment (John 5:39; 12:48; Acts 17:11; 1 Cor 2:15)
- The word of God is above the name of God (Psa 138:2)

2. Tradition must not contradict scripture (Isa 8:20; Mark 7:1-13)

3. The Apocrypha is not inspired

- The Apocrypha is not included in the O.T. canon stated by Jesus Christ (Matt 23:35; Luke 24:44); and both Testaments warn of the dangers of adding to the words of God (Deu 4:2; Pro 30:6; Rev 22:18)
- The Apocrypha is never quoted by anyone in the Bible
- The Apocrypha contains unscriptural doctrines and historical error
 - Angels are called, "Brother" (Tobit 6:6)
 - Burning incense is said to scare the devil (Tobit 6:7,17)
 - Almsgiving atones for sin (Tobit 12:9; 14:10-11; Ecclesiasticus 3:30)
 - God assists Judith in deception and falsehood (Judith 9:10,13)
 - Salvation by works (Wisdom 8:19-20)
 - Prayers and offerings for the dead ("Purgatory"?) (2 Maccabees 12:43-45)
 - Nebuchadnezzar is said to reign from Nineveh as the king of the Assyrians (Judith 1:1,7)

Apostolic Succession/ The Papacy

1) Assertion

1. Christ founded the Church upon Peter (Matt 16:18-19; Luke 22:31; John 21:15)

"Jesus solemnly told Peter he was to be supreme shepherd, the head of the Church. 'I for my part declare to you, you are Rock, and on this rock I will build my church, and the jaws of death shall not prevail against it. I will entrust to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you declare bound on earth shall be bound in heaven; whatever you declare loosed on earth shall be loosed in heaven'" (New American Catechism, p. 185, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

2. The pope is the successor to Peter and the bishops are successors to the other apostles

"The Pope, the Bishop of Rome, is the successor of St. Peter, being supreme shepherd of the Church of Christ and having all the rights, powers and duties of Peter...The Pope is the successor of St. Peter. He is the highest Christian teaching authority in the world; he is the supreme ruler or shepherd of the Catholic Church...While the Pope is the successor of St. Peter, the Catholic bishops are successors of the other apostles." (New American Catechism, p. 185, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

"We define that the Holy Apostolic See and the Roman Pontiff holds the primacy over the whole world, and that the Roman Pontiff himself is the successor of the Blessed Peter, prince of the Apostles, and true vicar of Christ, the head of the whole Church, the father of all Christians, and that to him, in the person of Blessed Peter was given by our Lord Jesus Christ, full power to feed, rule, and govern the universal church, as is contained also in the acts of the ecumenical councils, and in the sacred canons." (Council of Trent)

3. The Pope, or "holy father", is the vicar of Christ

"The Pope is Christ in office, Christ in jurisdiction and power...we bow down before thy voice, O Pius, as before the voice of Christ, the God of truth; in clinging to thee, we cling to Christ." (Vatican Council, January 9, 1870)

"We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty" (Pope Leo XIII, June 20, 1894)

2) Answer

1. Peter was called "a stone" (John 1:42); only Jesus Christ is THE ROCK (Matt 16:18; 1 Cor 10:4) and foundation (1 Cor 3:11), even according to Peter himself (1 Pet 2:4-6)

- The "rock" of the Roman Catholic Church is not the same as the true church (Deu 32:31); he is even called, "Satan" (Matt 16:23)
- Peter was given the privilege of using the keys of the kingdom of heaven only in the sense that he was the first to preach the gospel as we know it today to the Jews (Acts 2) and to the Gentiles (Acts 10)

2. The same promise of binding and loosing given to Peter (Matt 16:19) was given to all the apostles (Matt 18:18)

- Peter was married (Matt 8:14)
- Peter refused to be worshipped by a Roman (Acts 10:25-26)
- Peter was rebuked by Paul for being in error (Gal 2:11)
- There is no record of Peter ever having been in Rome
- Peter was the apostle to the Jews not Gentiles (Gal 2:7-8)
- If Peter was the bishop of Rome, why did Paul neglect to include him in the list of notables mentioned in Rom 16?

3. Only God is the "Holy Father" (John 17:11)

- No man should be called, "father" (Matt 23:9)
- Only the Holy Spirit is the vicar of Christ (John 14:26; 15:26)

A Priest Class

1) Assertion

1. The Catholic priest acts as a mediator between God and man

- By hearing confession of sins (Pro 28:13; Acts 19:18; Jam 5:16; 1 John 1:9)
- By absolving sins (Matt 18:18; John 20:23)

"Through his priests Christ forgives sins." (New American Catechism, p. 93, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

2. The Catholic priest must be celibate

3. The Catholic priest offers sacrifice to God

"The first work of a priest is to offer sacrifice to God for the sins of the people. Priests offer Christ in sacrifice at Mass." (New American Catechism, p. 196, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

1. There is a difference between the ministerial priesthood and the priesthood of the people

"Although those in holy orders can at times be engaged in secular activities and professions, they are by reason of their vocation especially and professedly ordained to the sacred ministry. Living in the world, they are called by God to work for the sanctification of the world like a leaven, from within, by carrying out their proper tasks according to the spirit of the gospel. They are consecrated into a royal priesthood and a holy people in order that they may offer spiritual sacrifices through

everything they do and may witness to Christ in the world." (New American Catechism, p. 196, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

2) Answer

1. The only mediator between God and man is Jesus Christ (1 Tim 2:5; Heb 7:25; 1 John 2:1)
 - We are to confess FAULTS, not sins, to each other (Jam 5:16)
 - Only God can forgive sins (Mark 2:7)
2. A bishop is to be married (1 Tim 3:2) and forbidding to marry is a doctrine of devils (1 Tim 4:1,3)
3. Christ once offered himself as a sacrifice for our sins (Heb 7:27)
4. All born again believers constitute the priesthood (1 Pet 2:9)

Salvation By Works

1) Assertion

1. Salvation comes by partaking of the sacraments

"The sacraments are signs we can see which let us know that God's grace is being given to the soul of a person who receives the sacrament...The sacraments are the signs that Christ instituted, which signify the gift of grace and produce it...By grace we share in the very life of God himself, for through baptism we are born again." (New American Catechism, p. 70-71, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

"The sacraments are the principle actions through which Christ gives his Spirit to Christians and makes them a holy people...The sacraments are the ordinary channels of God's grace and are necessary to keep the life

of grace in our soul." (New American Catechism, p. 72-73, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

"The sacraments do indeed impart grace..." (Vatican Council II, Sacred Liturgy, 59)

- Baptism is essential for salvation

"Baptism is a new birth as a child of God...Baptism cleanses the soul from original sin and personal sins. The result of baptism is that a person is reconciled with God: his sins are forgiven, he receives the life of God, and becomes part of God's people...A person enters the Church by a new birth in baptism." (New American Catechism, p. 79, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

- Partaking of Holy Communion is essential for salvation

"When we eat the flesh of Christ in the sacrificial meal prepared by our Heavenly Father, Christ keeps making us one body with himself. The gift of sanctifying grace, through which the Spirit of Christ carries on this work of incorporation, makes steady progress in our hearts." (New American Catechism, p. 108, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

2. Salvation comes by dying in a state of grace

"Once we have received sanctifying grace in baptism, it then becomes a matter of the greatest importance that we preserve this supernatural gift to the very end." (New American Catechism, p. 222, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

2) Answer

1. There is no amount of good works that could earn salvation (Rom 3:10,23)

- Salvation is by the grace of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ apart from any works (Rom 4:5; 5:1; Eph 2:8-9; Tit 3:5)
- Baptism and the Lord's Supper are not sacraments, but ordinances (1 Cor 11:2)
- Salvation takes place prior to, not as a result of, baptism (Acts 8:36-37)
- Those who partake of the Lord's Supper should already be saved and have undergone self-judgment and confession (1 Cor 11:28-31)

2. Our salvation is preserved by the power of God not our good works (John 10:27-29; 1 Pet 1:5; 4:19)

The Mass

1) Assertion

1. The Mass is the continuous sacrifice of Christ at Calvary

"By means of the Eucharist Christ continually reoffers himself to the Father through the ministry of his priests in the sacrifice of the Mass." (New American Catechism, p. 73, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

"The sacrifice of the Mass is not merely a ritual which commemorates the sacrifice of Calvary. In it, through the ministry of priests, Christ perpetuates the sacrifice of the cross in an unbloody manner." (New American Catechism, p. 102, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

2. The priest changes the bread and wine into the literal body and blood of Jesus Christ ("Transubstantiation") for consumption (Matt 26:26-28; John 6:51-56)

"When a priest pronounces the words of the Eucharist consecration, the underlying reality of bread and wine is changed into the body and blood

of Christ, given for us in sacrifice...The holy sacrament looks like bread and tastes like bread but it is not bread; it is Jesus... All priests in the Catholic Church have the power to change bread and wine into Christ." (New American Catechism, p. 100-102, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

"The Lord Jesus Christ is present in the host (wafer) and that the priests have Him in their hands and carry Him from place to place." (The Dignity and Duties of the Priest)

"Christ said that he would share everlasting life with those who ate his flesh and drank his blood...This food enables us who eat it to sacrifice ourselves for our neighbor's good." (New American Catechism, p. 74-75, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

2) Answer

1. Jesus Christ offered himself once (Rom 6:10; Heb 7:27; 9:28; 10:10,12,14)

NOTE: The supposed "oldest and best" manuscript, Vaticanus, does not contain Hebrews chapter 10.

- Any acceptable sacrifice to God must be "bloody" (Lev 17:11; Heb 9:22)
 - The Lord's Supper is to SHOW the Lord's death, not repeat it (1 Cor 11:26)
2. There is no literal, physical presence in the elements; they are wholly symbolic (Matt 26:26-29; John 6:63)
- Drink offerings of blood and cakes for worship (wafers) are pagan practices directed toward the "queen of heaven" (Psa 16:4; Jer 44:19)

- The Mass is a “table of devils” and a “cup of devils” (1 Cor 10:20-21)

Indulgences

1) Assertion

1. The Catholic Church has the power to grant indulgences ("the remission in whole or in part of the temporal punishment due to sin") in return for gifts or services to the Church

"Since the power of conferring indulgences was granted by Christ to the Church, and she has, even in most ancient times, used this power, delivered unto her by God. The Holy Synod teaches and enjoins that the use of indulgences for the Christian people, most salutary, and approved by the authority of Sacred Councils is to be retained in the Church, and it condemns those who either assert that they are useless, or who deny that there is in the Church the power of granting them." (Council of Trent, Session 25)

"A plenary (full) indulgence was offered to those who took arms against the Hussites; while war against the Waldenses, Albigenses, Moors, and Turks were stimulated by the same means...Innocent (Pope) proclaimed a Crusade or holy war, with indulgences against the Albigensian heretics." (Catholic Dictionary, p.442, 18)

2) Answer

1. We are redeemed (bought) by the blood of Christ, not money or service (Psa 49:6-9; Isa 55:1; 1 Pet 1:18-19)

Purgatory

1) Assertion

2. Purgatory is a place where people are purified of their sins before entering heaven (Isa 22:14; Matt 3:12; 5:25-26; 12:32; 1 Cor 3:15; 1 Pet 3:19) cf. (2 Macc 12:43-45)

"Purgatory is the state in which those suffer for a time who die guilty of venial sins, or without having satisfied for the punishment due to their sins" (Baltimore Catechism)

3. Purgatory is a place of suffering and differs from hell only in point of duration

"The pains of purgatory are very severe, surpassing anything endured in this life" (Bellarmine)

"According to the Holy Fathers of the Church, the fire of purgatory does not differ from the fire of hell, except in point of duration. 'It is the same fire,' says St. Thomas Aquinas, 'that torments the reprobate in hell, and the just in purgatory. The least pain in purgatory,' he says, 'surpasses the greatest suffering in this life.' Nothing but the eternal duration makes the fire of hell more terrible than that of purgatory." (The Manual of the Purgatorial Society)

"There is absolutely no doubt that the pains of Purgatory in some cases endure for entire centuries" (John Haffert)

4. The Roman Catholic Church has authority to absolve or diminish an individual's purgatorial pains

- By Masses/ Indulgences

"The Mass is a propitiary Sacrifice for the living and the dead, and the souls in purgatory are helped by the suffrages of the faithful, but chiefly by the acceptable Sacrifice of the Altar" (Council of Trent, Session 25)

"Most indulgences are applicable to the souls in purgatory, who cannot help themselves, but who can be helped by the suffrages (especially masses) of friends on earth, as well as by the Indulgences gained in their behalf. Just as I can pay the bill you owe to your butcher or to your grocer, so I can apply to the debts still owed to Almighty God by a soul in purgatory the prayers and good works I perform" (Our Sunday Visitor, October 4, 1942)

- Scapular devotion

"No one dying in the scapular will suffer eternal burnings" (Catholic Dictionary, p.744)

"I, the Mother of Grace, shall descend into purgatory on the Saturday after death and whomsoever (the scapular wearers) I shall find in Purgatory I shall free" (Pope John XXII, quoting the words he heard from an apparition of "Our Lady")

2) Answer

1. Our sins are purged by the shed blood of Jesus Christ (Heb 1:3; 9:14,22)
 - The proof texts cited above do not teach the doctrine of purgatory
 - (Isa 22:14)= the purging (forgiveness) of the sins of the NATION of Israel, not a place
 - (Matt 3:12)= the purging is a separating of the wheat (the saved) and the chaff (the lost) at the Second Coming of Christ; the baptism of fire is hell not purgatory
 - (Matt 5:25-26)= The prison is hell (v.22) not purgatory; illustrates the eternal nature of our sin debt to God.
 - (Matt 12:32)= the world to come is the Millennium not heaven; no purgatory mentioned

- (1 Cor 3:15)= the entire passage (v.12-15) refers to the judgment seat of Christ; the fire that saves us is the word of God (Jer 23:29; Rom 10:17) not purgatory
 - (1 Pet 3:19)= the prison is hell; the occupants are spirits, not souls, that were disobedient in the days of Noah (i.e.- angels) (2 Pet 2:4-5)
 - (2 Macc 12:43-45)= not scripture; Apocryphal book
2. When a person dies, they go immediately to hell if they are lost (Luke 16:22-23) and to heaven if they are saved (2 Cor 5:8; Phl 1:23)
 3. No amount of prayers or money can benefit the dead (Job 36:19; Psa 49:6-9)
 4. Jesus spoke about heaven (John 14:1), and spoke more about hell than any other preacher or teacher, yet he never mentioned purgatory.
 5. The doctrine of purgatory has pagan roots; even the pagan Romans had a feast of purification called "Sacrum Purgatorium"

NOTE: How does the priest know when enough indulgences have been paid or masses said to release a soul from purgatory? Is it even in his financial best interest?

Mary

1) Assertion

1. Mary is the "Mother of God", "Mother of the Church", and "Mother of men"

"Mary is truly the Mother of God because she is the Mother of a Divine Person, because her Son who took His human nature from her is truly God...Christ appointed her as OUR MOTHER, and us HER children, in the person of St. John: 'Behold thy son...Behold thy Mother' (John

19:26-27)." (Secrets of Romanism, Joseph Zacchello, Loizeaux Brothers, p.113, 1977)

2. Mary is the our mediatrix

"And she is truly a mediatrix of peace between sinners and God. Sinners receive pardon by Mary alone. He fails and is lost who has not recourse to Mary" (The Glories of Mary, 1931 edition, Redemptorist Fathers)

"Many things are asked from God, and are not granted; they are asked of Mary and are obtained for she is even Queen of Hell and sovereign mistress of devils" (The Glories of Mary, 1931 edition, Redemptorist Fathers, p.127,141,143)

"...her function as mediatrix of all graces and her own perfect holiness obtain for her a place of great importance in the sublime work of imitating Christ...Let the entire body of the faithful pour forth instant supplications to the Mother of God and Mother of men." (New American Catechism, p. 213-214, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

3. The Immaculate Conception

"In view of the merits of her Divine Son, Mary alone enjoyed the privilege of being preserved from original sin. From the moment of her conception God willed that she should crush the head of the serpent...Mary was never, even for an instant, subject to the evil spirit." (New American Catechism, p. 214, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

"We declare, pronounce and define that the most blessed Virgin Mary, at the first instant of her conception was preserved immaculate from all stain of original sin" (The Tablet, 1953)

4. The Perpetual Virginity of Mary

"The ever-virgin Mother of Jesus Christ our Lord and God, Mary is in the Church in a place highest after Christ, and also is very close to us as our spiritual Mother." (New American Catechism, p. 212, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

5. The Assumption of Mary

"After a most blessed death Mary was triumphantly assumed into heaven with soul and body and was crowned Queen of Heaven by her own Son." (New American Catechism, p. 214, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1977)

"On the third day after Mary's death when the apostles were gathered around her tomb, they found it empty. The sacred body had been carried up to the celestial paradise...Hark how they cry 'Lift up your gates O ye princes, and be ye lift up, O eternal gates, and the Queen of Glory shall enter in'...Anyone who may henceforth doubt or deny this doctrine is utterly fallen away from the divine and Catholic faith." (Pope Pius XII, ex-cathedra announcement, November 1, 1950)

2) Answer

1. Mary is the mother of Jesus' humanity, not his deity; he always has been God (Isa 9:6; Mic 5:2; Luke 1:35; John 1:1,14)
 - Mary is blessed AMONG, not above, women (Luke 1:28,42,48)
Cont: (Jud 5:24)
 - It is the woman's SEED (virgin birth), not the woman, that was prophesied to bruise the head of the serpent (Gen 3:15)
2. Jesus Christ alone is our mediator and advocate (John 14:6; 1 Tim 2:5; Heb 7:25; 1 John 2:1)
3. Mary was a sinner and never given an exalted position by Jesus Christ (Matt 12:46-50; Luke 1:47; 2:21-24; 11:27-28; John 2:1-5; Rom 3:23)

4. Mary had other children and was not a perpetual virgin (Psa 69:8; Mark 6:3-4; John 7:5)
5. The woman in heaven with a crown (Rev 12:1) is Israel not Mary (Gen 37:9-10)
 - Worship and prayer should be directed to God alone (Job 5:1; 15:15; Matt 4:10; Rev 19:10) and not in the form of vain repetition like the "Our Father" (Matt 6:7)

CONCLUSION

Roman Catholicism has incorporated the PHILOSOPHY of paganism, the VAIN DECEIT of unscriptural doctrines; the TRADITIONS OF MEN have been exalted as an equal or greater authority to the Bible, and the RUDIMENTS OF THE WORLD are evident to the extreme in the sacramental system, ritual, and efforts to obtain divine favor through good works.

Make no mistake, because it is fundamental in many doctrines, professes to be the one and only true Church, and boasts nearly 1,000,000,000 members, the Roman Catholic Church is the number ONE enemy of Biblical Christianity. We must take advantage of the relative fundamental beliefs of Roman Catholics and make a fervent effort to win them to the Lord Jesus Christ.

APPENDIX

THE POPE	THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
Wears a tiara (triple crown) filled with jewels	Wore a crown of thorns (Matt 27:29)
Claims spiritual and temporal power over the world	His kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36)
Those in his presence are required to kneel to him and kiss his hand or feet	In the presence of his disciples he washed their feet (John 13:5)
Immense material wealth	Poor and lowly (Matt 11:29; 22:19)
Carried on the shoulders of servants in liveries of splendor	Carried the cross on his shoulders (John 19:17)
Instigated more wars than all rulers combined	Preached peace and good will toward men (Luke 2:14)
Promulgates his own laws and traditions in place of the word of God	Promulgated the law and word of God (Matt 5:6)
Lives in a palace surrounded by wealth and pomp	Had no place to lay his head (Matt 8:20)
Secludes himself in the Vatican appearing only on special occasions	Went out among the people preaching the gospel and doing good (Matt 4:23)
Sells masses, indulgences, and favors	Gave the gospel free to all (Matt 10:8)
Commands all to refer to him as "Holy Father" and his priests as "father"	Told his disciples not to call any man "father" upon the earth (Matt 23:9)
Many have lived immoral and degraded lives	Lived a sinless life (1 Pet 2:22)
Teaches false doctrine	Taught only sound doctrine (John 7:16)
Claims to be the Vicar of Christ on earth	Sent the Holy Spirit to be his Vicar on earth (John 14:26)

Claims to be the head of the Church	The head of the church
Teaches that one can come to God through Mary	Taught that no one can come to God except through him (John 14:6)
Teaches that prayer can be made to Mary and other saints	Taught that prayer should be made to God through him (John 16:23)
Teaches there are seven sacraments which confer grace on the recipient	Gave the church two ordinances which portray the gospel (Matt 26:26-29; 28:19-20)
Teaches that salvation is only through the Church	Taught that he alone is Savior (John 3:14-16)
Insists that the Church and state should be united	Taught the separation of church and state (Matt 22:21)
Teaches autocratic government for the Church	Taught democratic government for the church (Mark 10:42-43)
Teaches salvation by works	Taught that salvation is by grace (John 3:16)

<p style="text-align: center;">THE ROMAN CATHOLIC MARY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE LORD JESUS CHRIST</p>
<p>"And she is truly a mediatrix of peace between sinners and God. Sinners receive pardon by...Mary alone" (p.82-83). "Mary is our life...Mary in obtaining this grace for sinners by her intercession, thus restores them to life" (p.80). "He fails and is LOST who has not recourse to Mary" (p.94).</p>	<p>"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" (1 Tim 2:5)</p> <p>"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)</p> <p>"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." (Col 3:4)</p>
<p>"The Holy Church commands a WORSHIP peculiar to MARY" (p.130). "Many things...are asked from God, and are not granted; they are asked from MARY, and are obtained," for "She...is even Queen of Hell, and Sovereign Mistress of the Devils" (p.127, 141, 143).</p>	<p>"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)</p> <p>"Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:" (Eph 1:21)</p>
<p>"Mary is called...the gate of heaven because no one can enter that blessed kingdom without passing through HER" (p.160). "The Way of Salvation is open to none otherwise than through MARY," and since "Our salvation is in the</p>	<p>"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." (John 10:9)</p> <p>"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no</p>

<p>hands of Mary...He who is protected by MARY will be saved, he who is not will be lost" (p.169-170).</p>	<p>man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)</p> <p>"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)</p>
<p>"The whole Trinity, O MARY, gave thee a name...above every other name, that at Thy name, every knee should bow, of things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth" (p.260).</p>	<p>"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;" (Phl 2:9-10)</p>
<p>"All power is given to thee in Heaven and on earth," so that "at the command of MARY all obey—even God...and thus...God has placed the whole Church...under the domination of MARY" (p.180-181). Mary "is also the Advocate of the whole human race...for she can do what she wills with God" (p.193).</p>	<p>"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." (Matt 28:18)</p> <p>"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." (Col 1:18)</p> <p>"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also</p>

	for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:1-2)
"Mary is the Peace-maker between sinners and God" (p.197). "We often more quickly obtain what we ask by calling on the name of MARY, than by invoking that of Jesus." "She...is our Salvation, our Life, our Hope, our Counsel, our Refuge, our Help" (p.254, 257).	"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;" (Eph 2:14) "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." (John 16:23)