

Pius VI 1799

When God says it is time, events climax to pinpoint the time to the exact year. Looking back at 1799, the end of the 1260 years of Papal reigning power, we see clearly marked signposts. The emphasis of retribution on the Papal system begun.

The following is taken from *Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, Chapter 34, "The Deadly Wound Ends the 1260 Years."

[pg. 750]

2. TOLENTINO FOLLOWED BY KILLING OF DUPHOT. — The Directory wished Napoleon to destroy the Papacy,[5] and directed that no successor to Pius VI be elected to the papal chair. It hoped as a consequence, to deliver Europe from the papal supremacy.[6] But Bonaparte negotiated the Treaty of Tolentino, on February 19, 1797, by which the Pope was to abandon Avignon, Venaissin, Bologna, Ferrara, and Romagna (Peter's patrimony), in addition to heavy indemnities.[7] The papal treasury was unable to meet the monetary demand, and the populace of Rome was showing increasing hostility to the papal government. The pope could scarcely appear in public without being hissed.[8] Revolution was in the air. Incendiary placards were posted on the one hand, and on the other the French were exposed to increasing insults. A crisis approached.

Joseph Bonaparte was sent to Rome as French ambassador, and sought to quiet the situation. But on December 27, 1797, a riot threatened, and the papal government ordered the mutineers to disperse. Duppa records that some in the mob, "proceeded to make public harangues, and pretended to shew clearly, [pg. 751] by several texts of scripture, that the time was at hand to overthrow the existing government." [9] The papal troops advanced, and the revolutionists sought refuge at the French embassy. The pontifical soldiers followed and opened fire. Then the French general Duphot sought to quiet the melee, but was shot, and dispatched with papal bayonets.[10]

3. BERTHIER'S TROOPS ENTER ROME BY INVITATION. — The killing of General Duphot brought on the crisis. The ambassador left Rome in indignation. Reparations were refused, and the Directory, on January 1, 1798, ordered General Berthier,[11] then in Milan, to march upon Rome and conquer it, and to establish a Roman republic.[12]

General Berthier advanced, but stopped outside of Rome, awaiting an invitation to enter. Patriots invited him to do so. Thus the French troops entered Rome on February 10, 1798. Berthier immediately pledged by proclamation that the Catholic "cult" should remain untouched.[13]

4. PROCESSIONAL LAUNCHED TO STAY EVIL DAY. — As a last resort the church had had recourse to a vast religious processional through the streets of Rome, with venerated relics, in the hope of staving off the evil day. An elaborate proclamation was issued January 15, 1798, in the form of a printed poster[14] signed by the papal secretary. The three special relics paraded were a portrait of the Saviour supposed to have been painted by supernatural agency, a miraculous picture of the Virgin Mary and the child, and the supposed chains by which St. Peter was fettered.[15] These [pg. 752] were then placed on exhibition on the high altar of St. Peter's, and visited by the people of Rome and the surrounding country. Prayer, fasting, and penitence were urged, and liberal indulgences promised. But the French Army came on.[16] Priests went throughout the city preaching the end of the world and, as customary, calling on miracles to sustain their prophecies. They little dreamed that they were so near the close of their power.

5. ROMAN REPUBLIC IS RE-ESTABLISHED. — Berthier called upon the commander of St. Angelo to open the fort. He asked two days for decision, but Berthier gave only four hours. So the fort was evacuated, three thousand French troops taking possession, and taking over the city, with certain cardinals, princes, and prelates as hostages to ensure quiet. From that moment onward Pius VI confined himself to the Vatican. Heavy reparations were exacted for the assassination of General Duphot. Then a petition, drawn up and signed by the French partisans in Rome, demanding a change of government and regime of liberty, was followed by an imposing public demonstration. The Tree of Liberty was planted on the capitol hill,[17] and the new government was established on Pluiose 27 (February 15), when the sovereignty of the people was proclaimed and the re-establishment of the Roman Republic was effected.[18]

6. PAPAL ARMS AND INSIGNIA REMOVED. — Berthier came to the capitol escorted by a military band, received the acclaim of the great concourse, and gave formal recognition to the Roman Republic and its provisional government.[19] He then ordered the papal arms and insignia everywhere removed. Thus the change was effected without bloodshed. Later when the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda was suppressed, their College at [pg. 753] Rome was closed and the building used as a warehouse for **confiscated property, and their printing presses and type were sent to France.[20] Vatican Palace was stripped of its valuables, and the sacerdotal vestments of the pontifical chapels were burned for the gold and silver of the embroidery.[21]**

7. PIUS VI DETHRONED ON ANNIVERSARY IN SISTINE CHAPEL. — Meantime, on this very same day — February 15 — on the anniversary of his elevation to the pontificate, Pius VI repaired to the Sistine Chapel, and was receiving the felicitations of the Sacred College of cardinals, when, in the midst of the ceremony, shouts penetrated the conclave, intermingled with the strokes of axes on the doors. Soon General Haller, a Swiss Calvinist, with a band of his soldiers, broke into the chapel, and declared that the pope's reign was at an end.[22] (*Painting appears on page 754.*) **His Swiss guards were dismissed, and republican soldiers substituted.** Ferrara, Bologna, and Romagna (Peter's patrimony) were taken over, and the cardinals were stripped of authority and possessions. Eight were arrested and sent to the Civita Castellana.[23] The glory, honor, and power had vanished. Soldiers were quartered in the papal palace. Such was the stroke of the sword at Rome. It was the end of an epoch in papal history long before predicted in the prophecies of Holy Writ. Trevor goes so far as to say:

"The territorial possessions of the clergy and monks were declared national property, and their former owners cast into prison. The papacy was extinct: not a vestige of its existence remained; and among all the Roman Catholic powers not a finger was stirred in its defence. The Eternal City had no longer prince or pontiff; its bishop was a dying captive in foreign lands; and the decree was already announced that no successor would be allowed in his place."[24]

8. TREASURES DEMANDED AND BANISHMENT DECREED.—The pope's banishment from Rome was then decreed, and Haller was again chosen to inform him. Appearing on the afternoon of [pg. 755] February 18, he demanded the pope's treasures. When the pope protested that the Tolentino Treaty had left him nothing, Haller demanded and took the two rings on his fingers, including the Fisherman's ring — though only by threat. (This was returned the following day.) **Haller told the prelate to be ready to leave the next morning at six. He protested his age—of eighty-one—and illness, Haller nevertheless insisted, and threatened force. Given forty-eight hours to settle the affairs of the church, he was to leave before daybreak.[25]** (*Painting of departure appears on page 754.*)

It was still night, February 20, 1798, and stormy with lightning and thunder, when the carriage crossed the city, preceded by two men with torches — the guards pointing out the dome of St. Peter's. Both hisses and prayers came from the crowd that had assembled. Within ten days Pius VI had been dethroned, imprisoned, exiled, his private library confiscated, his state given up to plunder, and his subjects to military control. Reaching Sienna, Pius and his party stopped at an Augustinian convent. But while they were there, an earthquake destroyed several buildings. The Pontiff was therefore housed outside the city in a country home called Hell, a fact that elicited the sarcasm of the unbelieving. [26]

9. DIES AT VALENCE, FRANCE, IN 1799. — But the pope was still in the heart of Italy. So Pius VI was transferred to Florence, constantly under guard of French dragoons. Next his transfer to Parma was decided upon, the departure to take place at 2 A.M. As the pope was suffering from partial paralysis, his guards had great difficulty in effecting the transfer. From here he was taken to Turin, and finally to the French fortress at Valence, in Dauphiny,[27] arriving there July 14, 1799, broken with fatigue and sorrow. He died there on the 28th.[28]

FRENCH ULTIMATUM RESTRICTS PAPAL AUTHORITY IN 1798

General Haller Presenting Berthier's Ultimatum to Pope Pius VI,
in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican, on February 15, 1798.





The Declaration of the End of the former Papal Authority, with French original at Left and Italian Translation at Right
Inset of Berthier, who signed the Declaration.

[pg. 760]

IV. Retributive Character of Deadly Wound

The retributive character of the French Revolution should not be forgotten. In its sheer destructive effects it was considered to constitute a judgment doubtless without a parallel in human history. [33] It was directed primarily against Catholicism, not Protestantism, and was a reaction against her excesses. Terrible as was the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans under Titus, says Guinness, it sinks to secondary place when compared with the wholesale slaughter by massacre and war that first affected France, then Italy, and other nations of Europe. "If it inflicted enormous evil, it presupposed and overthrew enormous evil." [34]



Pius VI, Sent from Rome to Valence, France, where he Died in 1799.

1. VISITED WITH PLAGUE OF INFIDELITY AND IMMORALITY. — The France of St. Bartholomew — of the Wars of the Huguenots, of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and of the suppression of the Jansenists — was visited with a retributive plague of infidelity and immorality that was fearful. The monarchy that had banished the Huguenots was overthrown and abolished in a national convulsion of revolutionary excess and crime wherein the restraints of law and order gave way. The monarchy was brought to an end on the scaffold, the aristocracy abolished, estates were confiscated, prisons crowded, rivers choked with victims, churches desecrated, priests slaughtered, religion suppressed, and the worship of a harlot as the Goddess of Reason was substituted for the worship of the host on the altars of the Roman church.[35] [pg. 761]

2. HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE AND CHURCH CRASH TOGETHER. — France, a prey to infidelity, anarchy, and the guillotine, then communicated revolution and antiecclesiasticism to surrounding nations. Democratic revolution was succeeded by military despotism. Italy, Austria, Germany, Poland, Spain, Portugal, and Russia were invaded by the armies of France. Many Catholic nations which had ruled for centuries were crushed by Napoleon. The Holy Catholic Church and the remnant of the Holy Roman Empire were alike prostrated—the empire and the papal crown going down in the common ruin. They had stood side by side for a thousand years. The Holy Roman Empire had risen with Charlemagne, who attempted to revive the imperial power of the Caesars. He had combined Germany, Italy, and France into a single empire, which had warred against and crushed the Hussites, and had stood against Luther in the days of the Reformation, inflicting on Germany the horrors of the Thirty Years War in the time of Gustavus Adolphus. Now, stripped of Italian territory, driven back from the plains of Lombardy, the Holy Roman Empire came to be totally suppressed.

3. PIEDMONT AND SPAIN REAP BLOODSHED AND MISERY. — Piedmont, which had suppressed and all but exterminated the Waldenses, turning their valleys into slaughterhouses, was in turn overrun by merciless invaders. Spain, which had crushed the Reformation within her borders and in other lands, by the horrors of the Inquisition and the auto-da-fé, was now delivered over to dreadful bloodshed and misery, and during the seven years of the Peninsular War the Inquisition was suppressed.

4. CLIMAX OF REVERSAL REACHED IN ROME. — In Italy the reign of the pope of Rome was ended by a Swiss Calvinist leading the French military. Stripped of his possessions, and his temporal government abolished, the pope was carried away captive to the camp of the infidels, to die in a foreign land, where his priests had been slain and his name and office made a mockery, with Rome given up to plunder and desecration. Even as the pope was being hurried away from the scene of his dethronement [pg. 762] — the Sistine Chapel — he was taken, ironically enough, through a hall covered with a fresco representing the bloody massacre of St. Bartholomew's day.[36]

5. BIBLE AND MISSIONARY SOCIETIES HAVE BIRTH. — Papal hostility had been exerted in two ways: (1) By the suppression of the Scriptures, and (2) by the torture and death of its preachers and converts, which were effected by means of the Inquisition. The French Revolution ended both—French arms abolishing the Inquisition in France in 1798, and temporarily in Spain in 1808. Moreover, the extraordinary circulation of the Scriptures began during the French Revolution. Never should it be forgotten that both missionary and Bible societies had their birth at this very time, the British and Foreign in 1804, and the American in 1816.

6. TEMPEST OF WAR GAVE IT WINGS. — Begun in France, the spoliation of the fallen church and its head had spread quickly to other countries of Europe, until the stroke of the sword struck at Rome. The tempest of war gave it wings, sweeping into Belgium and the Rhenish provinces of Germany, where ecclesiastical changes similar to those in France took place.

In 1796-1797 French dominion, established by Bonaparte's victories in northern Italy, was similarly accompanied by French Democratism and infidelity and antipapalism. Then Rome itself [pg. 763] became the goal, as the French armies urged marching forward on the papal capital.

7. LOOKED AS IF PAPACY WERE DEAD. — In Rome all the cardinals were involved in the indiscriminate proscription. Eight were imprisoned, and several renounced the Roman purple and sought asylum away from Rome. It looked as if the Papacy were dead. In fact, half of Europe thought "the Papacy was dead." [37]

The blood of the saints was avenged. France had for years yielded the neck to the papal yoke, and helped to bind other nations. Now she had abolished papal tithes, suppressed her monasteries, confiscated her church lands, and despoiled her priests. [38] Pennington says, "The same God who visits the iniquities of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation had made him [the pontifical head of the church] the victim of His retributive justice." [39]

V. Papal Establishment and Overthrow Are Counterparts

The evidence is incontestable that the eighteenth-century overthrow of the Papacy, stemming from the French Revolution, was the clear counterpart of the sixth-century papal establishment. Justinian first recognized by law the pope's absolute ecclesiastical supremacy, and virtually gave the saints into his hand, placing the civil sword at his ultimate disposal. And now, 1260 years later, springing from the French Revolution, the land that for centuries had been the mainstay of the Papacy, abolished the pope's age-old supremacy, declared the clergy totally independent of the See of Rome, vested the election of bishops in departmental authorities, made a national profession of atheism, and then actually overthrew the papal government.

Source: The PROPHETIC FAITH OF OUR FATHERS, The Historical Development of Prophetic Interpretation, by Le Roy Edwin Froom, Volume II, Pre-Reformation and Reformation Restoration, and Second Departure, published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, Washington D.C., Copyright 1948, pages 749-764.



The Coronation of Napoleon

Painting in the Kandel Living Room [approx. 38" h x 62" w]
[Picture also in PhotoDrama, p81]

Todd Alexander used a copy of The Coronation of Napoleon painting to illustrate his discourse at the Chicago May 30, 2012, Convention. He gave the illustration to Mark, who had it framed and hung it on our living room wall, where we have our Tuesday meeting, now in the 4th Volume.

I was not quite sure that I wanted to sit and look at Napoleon and the Pope every day as this is where I sit and do my computer work every day. But after considering it, I decided what a GREAT REMINDER of how world events are fully orchestrated by the Lord. Even when we don't recognize how daily news is preparing the groundwork, how often looking back we can see the Lord's hand bringing his prophetic fulfillment in perfect time, the right place, precisely designed by His Wisdom and Plans.

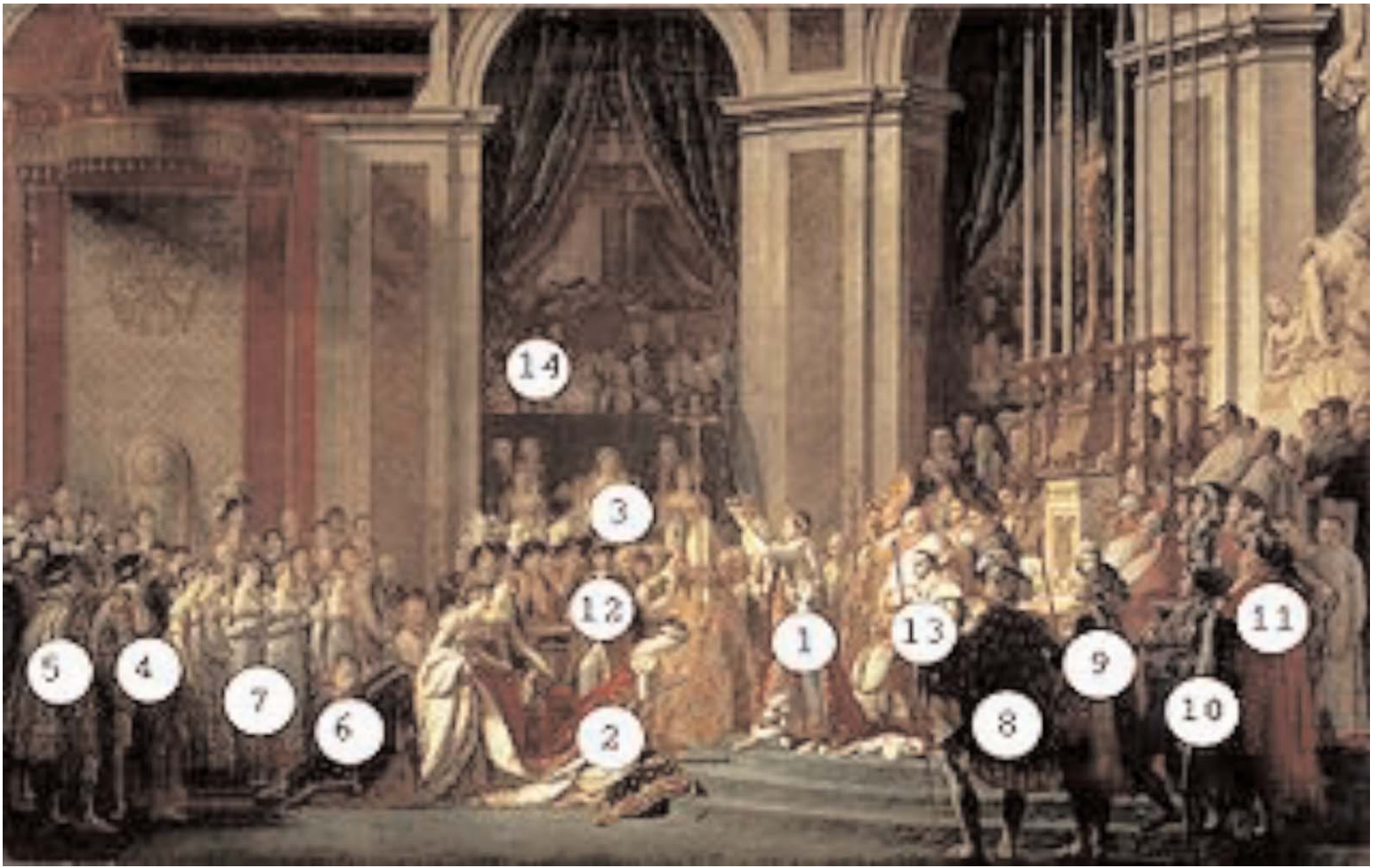
Below are some facts on The Coronation of Napoleon, in case you would like to hang a copy of the painting in your home!

The Coronation of Napoleon

Artist **Jacques-Louis David**
Year **1805–07 (exhibited 1808)**
Type **Oil on canvas**
Dimensions **(20 ft 4 in × 32 ft 1 in)**
Location **Louvre, Paris, France**

The Coronation of Napoleon (French: Le Sacre de Napoléon) is a painting completed in 1807 by Jacques-Louis David, the official painter of Napoleon. The painting has imposing dimensions, as it is almost ten metres wide by approximately six metres tall. The crowning and the coronation took place at Notre-Dame de Paris, a way for Napoleon to make it clear that he was a son of the Revolution.

The work was commissioned by Napoleon orally in September 1804 and its official title is Consecration of the Emperor Napoleon I and Coronation of the Empress Josephine in the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris on 2 December 1804.



The Characters in the painting

1. Napoleon I (1769–1821), is standing, dressed in coronation robes similar to those of Roman emperors. Others are merely passive spectators.
2. Joséphine de Beauharnais (1763–1814), is kneeling in a submissive position, as called for in the French Civil Code. She received the crown from the hands of her husband, not the pope. Her robe is decorated with silk according to a contemporary cartoon by Jean-Francois Bony.
3. Maria Letizia Ramolino (1750–1836), mother of Napoleon, was placed in the stands by the painter. She occupies a place more important than the pope. Actually, she did not attend the ceremony to protest the friction of Napoleon with his brothers Lucien and Joseph. Napoleon's father, Charles Bonaparte, died in 1785. Maria Letizia asked the painter to give it a place of honour. In 1808, when Napoleon discovered the canvas completed in the workshop of David, he was enthralled, and expressed his gratitude to the painter who had managed to convey to posterity the tribute paid to the affection he was carrying to a woman who shared with him the burden of his office.
4. Louis Bonaparte (1778–1846), who at the beginning of the empire received the title of grand constable, King of Holland, in 1806. He married Hortense de Beauharnais, the daughter of Josephine.

5. Joseph Bonaparte (1768–1844), who was not invited and did not attend because of an argument with Napoleon. This is why his mother did not attend either. After the coronation, he received the title of imperial prince. Then he was king of Naples in 1806 and Spain in 1808.
6. The young Napoleon Charles Bonaparte (1802–1807), son of Louis Bonaparte and Hortense de Beauharnais.
7. The sisters of Napoleon. In the replica, the dress of Napoleon's favorite sister will be pink. This is the only change in the replica despite being painted from memory.
8. Charles-Francois Lebrun (1739–1824), the third consul alongside Napoleon and Cambacérès. Under the First Empire, he took the place of prince-architrésorier. He holds the sceptre.
9. Jean Jacques Régis de Cambacérès (1753–1824), arch-chancellor prince of the empire. He takes the hand of justice.
10. Louis-Alexandre Berthier (1753–1815), minister of war under the Consulate. Marshal Empire in 1805. He keeps the globe surmounted by a cross.
11. Talleyrand (1754–1836), grand chamberlain since July 11, 1804.
12. Joachim Murat (1767–1815), marshal of empire, king of Naples after 1808, brother-in-law of Napoleon and husband of Caroline Bonaparte.
13. Pope Pius VII (1742–1823), was content to bless the coronation. He is surrounded by dignitaries clerics, appointed by Napoleon since the Concordat. In order not to jeopardize the new balance between Church and State, the pope accepted to attend the coronation.
14. The painter Jacques-Louis David is depicted in the stands as well.
15. Halet Efendi, an Ottoman ambassador, was also present. He is shown below in the detailed picture.