

WHEN WAS THE POPE TAKEN CAPTIVE?

A Closer Look at 1798

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: CHERIES AND ANTHOCYANINS / THE PENTECOSTAL EXPLOSION

It is generally understood that the 1260-year prophecy ended in 1798, when a pope was taken captive by one of Napoleon's leading generals. Here is what *Great Controversy* says about this:

"The periods here mentioned—'forty and two months,' and 'a thousand two hundred and threescore days'—are the same, alike representing the time in which the church of Christ was to suffer oppression from Rome. **The 1260 years of papal supremacy began in A.D. 538, and would therefore terminate in 1798.** At that time a French army entered Rome and made the pope a prisoner, and he died in exile. Though a new pope was soon afterward elected, the papal hierarchy has never since been able to wield the power which it before possessed.

"The persecution of the church did not continue throughout the entire period of the 1260 years. God in mercy to His people cut short the time of their fiery trial. In foretelling the 'great tribulation' to befall the church, the Saviour said: 'Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.' Matthew 24:22. Through the influence of the Reformation the persecution was brought to an end prior to 1798."—*Great Controversy*, 266-267.

Elsewhere in the same book, we are told:

"The influence of Rome in the countries that once acknowledged her dominion is still far from being destroyed. And prophecy foretells a restoration of her power. 'I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.' Verse 3. **The infliction of the deadly wound points to the downfall of the papacy in 1798.** After this, says the prophet, 'his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.'—*Great Controversy*, 579.

Some are declaring that no pope was taken captive in the year 1798. The following quotation, from what has been considered a reputable historical source, declares that the pope was actually taken captive in 1799. **Some are using this quotation in an attempt to disprove that the pope was taken captive in 1798!**

"Pope Pius VI was on good terms with the allies against France in 1793 and felt that he could rely on them, but in 1796 his territory was invaded. After the last Austrian defeat by Napoleon, who forced the pope to sign a peace treaty at Tolentino on February 19, 1797.

"In the following December, a riot in Rome led

to French occupation of that city on February 15th, 1798, and the proclamation of a republic by a group of Italian patriots. Pius and the Curia were expelled from Rome [in 1798], **and in 1799 he was seized by the French.** Aged and physically crippled, he died a prisoner."—*Encyclopedia Britannica*, Vol. 9, p. 484 (15th ed., 1986).

It is generally considered that few historical collections can equal the *Encyclopedia Britannica*; yet it only consists of a large collection of articles written by men who can be very fallible.

In this particular case, the above article is inaccurate in several respects.

The Papal States (an area in central Italy considered, in the 18th century, to be the private property of the papacy) had, over the centuries, often been invaded by other Italian city-states and foreign nations. Thus nothing of serious consequence happened in 1796.

In 1797, the pope signed a peace treaty with France. But this event is also not significant. Over the centuries, the Vatican has signed (and later broken) many peace treaties with foreign powers.

In December 1797, there was a riot in Rome. But that proves nothing. There have been many riots in Rome.

In 1798, a republic was declared "by a group of Italian patriots." That would be a more significant event, and it happened in 1798. (It was actually incited by revolutionists in town who favored a French takeover.)

In 1798, the pope, along with his entire Curia, were expelled from Rome.

So far, the above *Britannica* article is correct. But then it says **he was seized by the French in 1799. Wrong! He was seized by the French in 1798**, made a captive, and was never again permitted to resume his rule over the worldwide Roman Catholic Church!

The *Britannica* article also states that **Pius VI was removed from Rome in 1799. Also incorrect! He was carried captive from Rome in 1798.**

In addition, the above 15th edition *Britannica* statement is **also in error in declaring that a republic was declared by local Italians. That is also wrong! It was French military officers** under General Berthier (pronounced *Bér-thee-a*; "a" as in "day") which made the Papal States into a republic. According to historians, French military officers authored the decree; and it was issued under their authority (although it may have been carried out by Italian revolutionists). It is well-known among scholars that, after the 11th edition, *Britannica*

is not as historically reliable as in earlier years. Murl Vance personally told me that, prior to releasing the 12th edition, historical material unfavorable to Rome was altered or removed.

The crucial points are these: **Pope Pius VI was seized by the French in 1798, not 1799. As a prisoner he was removed from Rome in 1798, not 1799. At the time that he was expelled from the city, he was taken captive—not a year afterward.** Here are several historical statements which solidly corroborate these points.

“In 1795 Pius VI joined the coalition of European powers against France and put an army of twelve thousand men in the field. Napoleon Bonaparte, at the head of the victorious French army, seized the pope’s possessions in Bologna and Ferrar and compelled him to pay an indemnity of twenty-one million francs. When the pope resorted to efforts at evasion [attempts to avoid paying the money], the indemnity was increased. **In 1798, Rome was captured by the French, a republic was proclaimed, and the pope was taken to France as a prisoner, where he died, August 1799.**”—*Albert Henry Newman, Manual of Church History, Vol. 2, p. 444 (1931).*

“After the [Reign of] Terror [in France] came a conservative reaction, and in 1795 a new constitution placed the state [French nation] under the government of a Directory [parliament]. Religious freedom was proclaimed, but the Directory and its regime were anti-Christian. **In 1798 the armies of the Directory created a republic in Rome and the Pope (Pius VI, reigned 1775-1799), who had been hostile to the Revolution, was carried to France, a prisoner,** and within a few months was dead.”—*Kenneth Scott Latourette, History of Christianity, p. 1010 (1953).*

“When, in 1797, Pope Pius VI fell grievously ill, Napoleon gave orders that in the event of his death no successor should be elected to his office, and that the papacy should be discontinued.

“But the Pope recovered; the peace was soon broken; **Berthier entered Rome on 19th February 1798, and proclaimed a Republic. The aged Pontiff refused to violate his oath by recognizing it, and was hurried from prison into France.** Broken with fatigue and sorrows, he died . . . [in] August 1799, in the French fortress of Valence, aged 82 years. No wonder that half of Europe thought Napoleon’s veto would be obeyed, and that with the Pope the Papacy was dead.”—*Joseph Rickaby, The Modern Papacy, in Lectures on the History of Religions, Vol. 3, Lecture 24, p. 1 (1910).*

We will conclude with a quotation from the 11th edition of the *Britannica* (printed in 1910-1911), which, unlike the later 15th edition (1986), provides an accurate statement of historical facts:

“At the outbreak of the French Revolution, Pius

VI was compelled to see the old Gallican [French Catholic] Church suppressed, the pontifical and ecclesiastical possessions in France confiscated, and an effigy of himself burnt by the populace at the Palais Royal.

“The murder of the republican agent, Hugo Basseville in the streets of Rome (January 1793) gave new ground of offense. The papal court was charged with complicity by the French Convention, and Pius threw in his lot with the league against France.

“In 1796 Napoleon invaded Italy, defeated the papal troops, and occupied Ancona and Loreto. Pius sued for peace, which was granted at Tolentino [Italy] on the 19th of February 1797. But on the 28th of December of that year, in a riot created by some Italian and French revolutionists, General Duphot of the French Embassy was killed and a new pretext furnished for invasion.

“**General Berthier marched to Rome, entered it unopposed on the 13th of February 1798, and, proclaiming a republic, demanded of the pope the renunciation of his temporal authority. Upon his refusal he [Pope Pius VI] was taken prisoner, and on the 20th of February was escorted from the Vatican to Siena,** and thence to the Certosa near Florence.

“The French Declaration of war against Tuscany led to his [the pope’s] removal by way of Parma, Piacenza, Turin and Grenoble to the citadel of Valence, where he died six weeks later, on the 29th of August 1799.”—*Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 21, p. 686 (11th edition).*

The book, *Bible Readings for the Home*, nicely summarizes the prophecy for us:

“The decree of the emperor Justinian, issued in A.D. 533, recognized the pope as ‘head of all the holy churches’ (*Justinian’s Code, Book 1, title 1, sec. 4, in The Civil Law, translated by S.P. Scott, Vol. 12, p. 12*). The overwhelming defeat of the Ostrogoths in the siege of Rome, five years later, A.D. 538, was a death blow to the independence of the Arian power then ruling Italy, and was therefore a notable date in the development of papal supremacy. The year 538 commences the twelve hundred and sixty years of this prophecy, which would extend to the year 1798. The year 1793 was the year of the Reign of Terror in the French Revolution, and the year when the Roman Catholic religion was set aside in France and the worship of reason was established in its stead. As a direct result of the revolt against papal authority in the French Revolution, **the French army, under Berthier, entered Rome, and the pope was taken prisoner in February 1798,** during which this death stroke was inflicted upon the Papacy, fittingly and clearly marks the close of the long prophetic period mentioned in this prophecy.”—*Bible Readings for the Home, pp. 184-185.* —*vf*

Cherries and Anthocyanins

There is not much profit in selling fresh fruits and vegetables, but there is a lot of profit in junk food. And the manufacturers of those foods contribute heavily to election campaigns.

Growers of fruits and vegetables cannot afford to advertise their products, but they could place information on their websites.

Until recently, for example, consumers could learn of the health benefits of cherries on a cherry company's website. But, in the eyes of some, this could have dangerous results! Some individuals might decide to buy cherries at the grocery store instead of trans fat-laden snacks being advertised repeatedly on the mass media.

In addition, if people ate more cherries, and other fruits and vegetables, they would not become sick as often; nor would they need drugs, doctors, and hospitals.

So on October 17, 2005, the FDA banned information about cherries' health benefits from appearing on websites. The FDA sent warning letters to 29 companies that market cherry products, warning them to stop publicizing proven scientific data about the health benefits of cherries (*available at cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/chrylist.html*).

One cherry grower had placed this scientific data

on his website: "The same chemicals that give tart cherries their color may relieve pain better than aspirin and ibuprofen."

What is that health information about cherries that the government does not want you to know about? Incredibly, part of the facts about cherries that the FDA wants to censor was funded by a different governmental agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). It gave the cherry industry a \$141,210 grant to investigate the health benefits of cherries. These USDA-funded studies determined that:

- Cherries have a low glycemic index.
- They are fat-free, sodium-free, and high in vitamins C, B₆, E, and folic acid.
- They rate high on the ORAC antioxidant scale (128 units per gram).

They also relived arthritic pain and may be good for blood sugar.

A 2004 Johns Hopkins research study found that phytochemicals in tart cherries suppress pain caused by inflammation better than drugs. This study confirmed overseas studies, that the same substance which makes cherries red makes inflammation subside. (*See some of the references below.*) That substance is called *anthocyanins*.

Kang S.Y., et al., "Tart cherry anthocyanins inhibit tumor development in mice and reduce proliferation of human colon cancer cells," *Cancer Letter*, 2003, May 8:194(1):13-19.

Tall I.M., et al., "Tart cherry anthocyanins suppress inflammation induced pain behavior in rats," *Behavioral Brain Res.*, 2004, Aug 12:153(1):181-188.

Wang H., et al., "Antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities of anthocyanins and their aglycon, cyanidin, from tart cherries," *Journal of Natural Products*, 1999, Feb;62(2):294-296.

Nagamine I., et al., "Effect of acerola cherry extract on cell proliferation and activation of the ras signal pathway at the promotion stage of lung tumorigenesis in mice," *Journal Nutritional Science and Vitaminology (Tokyo)*, 2002, Feb;48(1):69-72.

Jacob R.A., et al., "Consumption of cherries lowers plasma urate in healthy women," *Journal of Nutrition*, 2003, June;13(6):1826-1829.

Rimm E.G., et al., "Relation between intake of flavonoids and risk for coronary heart disease in male health professionals," *Annals Internal Medicine*, 1996, Sep1;125(5):384-389.

Montonen J., et al., "Food consumption and the in-

cidence of type II diabetes mellitus," *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 2005, Mar;59(3):441-448.

Hanamura T., "Structural and functional characterization of polyphenols isolated from acerola fruit," *Bioscientific and Biotechnology Biochemistry*, 2005, Feb;69(2):280-286.

Ueda H., et al., "Hydroxyl group of flavonoids affects oral anti-inflammatory activity and inhibition of systemic tumor necrosis factor- α production," *Bioscientific and Biotechnology Biochemistry*, 2004, Jan;68(1):119-125.

Andres-Lacueva C., et al., "Anthocyanins in aged blueberry-fed rats are found centrally and may enhance memory," *Nutritional Neuroscience*, 2005, Apr;8(2):111-120.

Commenges D., et al., "Intake of flavonoids and risk of dementia," *European Journal of Epidemiology*, 2000, Apr;16(4):357-363.

Golbe L.I., et al., "Case-control study of early life dietary factors in Parkinson's disease," *Archives of Neurology*, 1988, Dec 45(12):1350-1353.

Other studies were about benefits in regard to melatonin, penal gland, brain function, childbirth, etc.

Anthocyanins are related to proanthocyanidins found in grapes and other berries. But they are not exactly the same. Anthocyanins are the red pigment in berries. They also make blueberries and blue corn blue.

(You may want to purchase a bottle of cherry concentrate juice, and drink a small amount of that each day.)

In 2001, a researcher reported that tart cherries contain relatively high levels of melatonin, which aids in sleep and increases immunity.

Eating cherries increases levels of melatonin. Researchers in Spain, China, and elsewhere have documented that melatonin suppresses cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2), which plays a role in conditions such as Alzheimer's disease where it does damage, yet increases COX-2 in situations where it is needed, such as healing stomach ulcers. In other words, melatonin is a "smart" compound in cherries.

Researchers found that eating plums may prevent Parkinson's disease—reducing risk by 76%. Anthocyanins may be the causal factor.

USDA researchers at Tufts University found that anthocyanins cross the blood-brain barrier, and improve memory and quickness of intelligent responses.

Anthocyanins protect against free radicals related to proteins as well as those related to lipids (fats). This means that cherries can protect the heart muscle, skin, arteries, the fluid in joints, and more.

While tomatoes are also red, their color comes from a different source. (Their pigment is lycopene, a type of carotenoid. Lycopene blocks fat-related free radicals such as those that damage LDL.)

At the same time that the FDA banned health claims by the cherry industry, it was about to give full approval to a new drug, Pargluva.

But then the Cleveland Clinic spoke and told of their re-evaluation of the manufacturer's data—which found that the drug which the FDA liked increased the risk of dying by 300%. *The Journal of the American Medical Association* printed those findings (*Washington Post*, October 21, 2005, A2).

We have discussed cherries in this article, but it is obvious that the health benefits of anthocyanins are also found in a number of other fruits.

By the way, have you noticed that, in recent months, the press has trumpeted the fact that the small amount of anthocyanins in red wine is just outstanding for your health? People are being told to drink more red wine. Yet the greater benefit of eating cherries, cherry juice concentrate, and other fruits is not mentioned.

—vf

The Pentecostal Explosion

When people want a spirit to control them, it will happen. In just 100 years, the Pentecostal/charismatic movement has become the fastest growing and most globally diverse form of so-called Christianity. In the spring of 1906, an eruption of tongues speaking at the Azusa Street revival in southern California, under the pastorate of William J. Seymour, became known in many parts of the world.

At the current rate of growth, it is predicted that there will be a billion Pentecostals by 2025, with most of them living in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Young people seeking some new excitement like it, and even adherents of witch doctors find themselves at home in its midst.

Pentecostals can be found inside all 150 non-charismatic Christian denominations. Pentecostals are found in 9,000 ethnic cultures and speak 8,000

native languages.

A majority of them are in cities rather than in rural areas. They are in 80% of the world's 3,300 largest metropolises. More women than men become Pentecostal. Over 65% are in third world areas, 87% are poor. Most live in homes which have families. More are young than old.

They want a thrilling religious experience, and find in Pentecostalism a church without much doctrine and hardly any forbiddings. (*Read Great Controversy, Chapter 27, Modern Revivals.*)

Adventist celebration churches are more Pentecostal than historic, and thus provide a halfway house which can help lead many of our own people out into the mazes of Pentecostalism, which, with its cravings for physical manifestations and control by a spirit, is but a variant form of spiritualism. —vf