

Pope Francis Declares, “No Hell”

Commentary for April 1, 2018 — He Decides for Annihilation

First, I want to tell you about this month’s article, and then I will get to the Pope’s declaration. The article is the next episode of “Israel and Judah: 29. Athaliah and Joash of Judah,” but first read the introductory information in the [“April 2018 Newsletter.”](#) A queen rules the Kingdom of Judah for seven years but she was evil almost beyond belief, just like her mother Jezebel. Interesting things take place over a 50-year period discussed in the article.

Pope Francis, Drudge Report, and the Salvation of All

I first learned about this from the surprising headline of March 29, 2018 on the *Drudge Report*, as did most all major news websites such as Yahoo and CNN, that Pope Francis gave a surprising interview to an Italian reporter. A CNS article (CNS stands for “Catholic News Service”) on this matter is titled [“Pope Francis: ‘There Is No Hell.’](#)” Actually, in this interview he teaches the ultimate annihilation of evil unbelievers, not universal salvation.

Pope Francis made a previous statement about universal salvation. In my [“June 2013 Newsletter,”](#) under the subhead “Pope Francis Teaches Universal Salvation,” I quote a substantial portion of a public address by Pope Francis. The link is no longer valid (and the speech has been removed from the Vatican website), but the Catholic News Service and many other news outlets quote the same speech by Francis in a May 22, 2013 article, [“Pope says everyone can do good, regardless of belief.”](#) At that time Francis did not teach annihilation, he taught universal salvation.

Speaking within a general topic about atheists, Francis said about the inclusive nature of God’s salvation through Christ:

“The Lord has redeemed [1] all of us, [2] all of us, with the Blood of Christ: [3] all of us, not just Catholics. [4] Everyone!

‘Father, the atheists?’ Even the atheists. [5] Everyone! And this Blood makes us children of God of the first class! We are created children in the likeness of God and [6] the Blood of Christ has redeemed us all! And we all have a duty to do good. And this commandment for everyone to do good, I think, is a beautiful path towards peace.

If we, each doing our own part, if we do good to others, if we meet there, doing good, and we go slowly, gently, little by little, we will make that culture of encounter: we need that so much. We must meet one another doing good. ‘But I don’t believe, Father, I am an atheist!’ But do good: we will meet one another there.”

He stated 6 times in 59 words that Christ’s redemption is totally inclusive. He even said that we are first class children of God, firstborn not second born children of God. Every human being will be included. This is a remarkable statement by the Pope, and it came early in his

pontificate. Now he has said something similar again, but now the Vatican is denying what he obviously stated in May 2013 and altered in March 2018.¹

I do not really care what Pope Francis says. He does not represent me, nor does he advocate to God for anyone more than any other human can do in prayers to God. He is, however, the designated leader of over 1.2 billion Roman Catholic believers around the world.

Whenever you think about the advocacy to God by leaders of religious groups, denominations, or traditions, keep in mind this biblical passage:

“[God] ... **will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

• *1 Timothy 2:4–6*

This statement by the apostle Paul not long before his death is a fact. The words are clear and are not philosophical, not a conjecture, and not a theological opinion from a “pontiff” given for political and financial reasons.

The evidence is overwhelming that Catholic scholars know and believe that all will be saved. My article “[Modern Recognition of Universal Salvation](#)” under the section heading “**BOOK: Jesus Christ: Salvation of All**,” reviews a book by Bishop Luis Ladaria, a major Vatican theologian and protégé of Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict. Ladaria shows how many in the Catholic hierarchy since Vatican II seek to change modern Catholic doctrine to teach what they know is the biblical truth that is universal salvation.

I predict that future statements by Vatican leaders and future popes will abandon the teaching of hell, and even annihilationism, just as they have the doctrines of Limbo (a place for souls who have not been baptized) and Purgatory (an intermediate state after death where purification through suffering pays for sins).

Why This Statement, and Why Now?

The Catholic Church is in financial trouble. It is in big trouble with abuse of children and parishioners around the world by priests, bishops, and cardinals. It needs severe reform. Wealthy people do not want to contribute to the Catholic Church and its charities if their money will go to pay settlements for past abuse by clergy.

It is funding from Catholics in the United States that keeps the Catholic Church solvent. If contributions dry up, the institution will cease to function or be important in the world.

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¹ The Vatican has denied Pope Francis said what was attributed to him. See “[Vatican: Don’t trust report that Pope Francis denied reality of hell.](#)”