

# The Vatican and the United Nations

Nigel Bernard

**I**N REVELATION 18 it is stated: "And [the angel] cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies" (vv. 2,3).

In these verses we see that "all nations" commit spiritual fornication with the Roman Catholic system, the latter-day Babylon. This finds fulfilment informally in the way that peoples of individual countries adhere to Roman Catholic teachings. However, there is a more formal linkage between "all nations" and the Roman Catholic Church. This is seen in the way in which the Vatican is seeking to gain influence in the United Nations (UN).

In April 2004 the *Catholic World News* reported on the comments of Cardinal Renato Martino, who was attending a conference in Rome on UN reform. It said that the cardinal "has raised the possibility that the Holy See might become a permanent member of the international body. The Holy See currently has the status of 'permanent observer'".<sup>1</sup> The report went on to say that the cardinal "said that the possibility is now being studied, because Vatican officials hope to increase the effectiveness of the UN and the involvement of the Church leadership". These words show two things. Firstly, the Vatican sees the UN as an important organisation whose powers should be increased. Secondly, the Vatican is keen to increase its role and influence within the UN. The UN is a vehicle by which the Roman Catholic Church can, and is seeking to, influence all nations.

## Drug abuse

An illustration of the cooperation between the UN and the Vatican is demonstrated by a visit to the Vatican on 30 April 2004 by Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). He had an audience with the pope and then met with the Vati-

can Secretary of State, Cardinal Angelo Sodano. The UN News site said of this meeting:

"Their discussion also touched on possible cooperation between UNODC and Catholic charities around the world, as well as a need for strengthening cooperation in drug abuse prevention, especially in relation to the increase in HIV/AIDS cases caused by injecting drug abuse".<sup>2</sup>

The involvement of the Roman Catholic Church in this kind of work is an indication of its widespread influence. It is also evidence of its humanistic and socialist character, typified by the "spirits like frogs" which come "out of the mouth of the false prophet" (Rev. 16:13). There is also, however, a deep irony with this particular aspect of the Vatican involvement in UN affairs.

In Revelation 18 it is written concerning the latter-day Babylon: "and the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived" (v. 23). The Greek word translated "sorceries" is *pharmakeia*. Strong says that this word means 'medication'. It is the Greek word from which the English word 'pharmacy' is derived. In this context it relates to the use of drugs in spells, and symbolises the false teachings which bring spiritual ill-health, just as actual drug abuse brings physical ill-health. Drug abuse is a symptom of the spiritual malaise of the world. The irony of the Vatican involvement in helping those with drug addiction is that one of the causes of this spiritual malaise is the spiritual sorcery which the Vatican itself is promulgating.

## Head of the nations

In Daniel 2 the head of the image seen by Nebuchadnezzar represented himself and the empire of Babylon over which he ruled: "And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the

1. <http://www.cwnews.com/news/viewstory.cfm?recnum=29025>

2. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=10586&Cr=Drug&Cr1=Crime>

field and the fowls of the heaven hath He given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold" (v. 38). In the latter days the head of gold represents the way that spiritual Babylon, the Roman Catholic Church, will be at the head of the nations.

It seems that one of the key ways it will establish this position is by increasing its influence at the UN. The UN appears to look favourably towards the Catholic Church. When Antonio Maria Costa met with the pope, the UN News site re-

ported that he "thanked the Pope for his Message of Peace delivered on New Year's Day, which stressed the importance of justice, the universal principle of UN work, and the contribution of the Catholic Church towards building peace". The mutual appreciation between the UN and the Catholic Church is a sign that Babylon is tightening its hold on "all nations". However, all nations, including the UN, will eventually have to drink "of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Rev. 18:3).

## Science and the Creator

### The secret chemistry of life

David Burges

**A**RGUABLY THE most important chemical process in nature, upon which all life on earth depends, is photosynthesis, the operation by which plants, algae and certain bacteria capture energy from sunlight and use it to convert carbon dioxide into carbohydrates. These are the food molecules of cells, and so ultimately the source of all that we eat. Photosynthesis is still the most efficient known mechanism for capturing solar energy, in spite of the many decades of scientific research to develop artificial solar cells.

Like so many other features of the living world, the actual chemistry of photosynthesis is extremely complex, involving two complementary mechanisms.<sup>1</sup> In the first, chlorophyll<sup>2</sup> utilises the energy of sunlight to split water into hydrogen ions and oxygen, at the same time liberating high energy electrons. In the second, the energetic electrons derived from stage one are used to reduce carbon dioxide, converting it to carbohydrates.<sup>3</sup> Thus, in the course of this process, oxygen is released to the atmosphere and carbon dioxide is removed, maintaining the atmosphere of the planet and making life possible for us.

#### The heart of the process

Biologists talk glibly about the supposed steps by which this amazing life-supporting process evolved, about 'nature' *inventing* such a successful system. Yet, although many years of research have revealed the main details of the biochemical pathways of photosynthesis, it still remains a

mystery how the fundamental step of the splitting of water by sunlight in plants actually takes place. Scientists dream of reproducing this reaction in order to make it possible to harness sunlight to produce, cleanly and cheaply from water, limitless quantities of hydrogen for use as fuel.

The problem is that, theoretically, the amount of energy required to split water is so great that it should destroy the biological molecules involved in the reaction. Yet plants do it all the time without harm. The secret seems to lie with an extraordinary structure associated with the chlorophyll molecules within the cell, which operates as a catalyst<sup>4</sup> for the process. New research has for the first time revealed the design and composition of this structure, referred to as the 'catalytic core'. In what has been described as a major breakthrough, scientists at Imperial College, London, used X-ray techniques to discover the precise layout of the atoms within the molecule.<sup>5</sup>

- 
1. Alberts et al., *Molecular Biology of the Cell*, New York, 1983.
  2. Chlorophyll is the green pigment of plants, which is contained in minute, lens-shaped bodies called chloroplasts within the outer layer of the leaves.
  3. Carbohydrates are a group of compounds that includes sugars and starch.
  4. A catalyst is a molecule which acts like scaffolding for a chemical reaction to take place on, speeding it up without itself being consumed.
  5. P. Hunter, "Flower power", *New Scientist*, 1 May 2004, pp. 28-31.