

THE DESIRE OF SCOTT HAHN

Understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm

By Randall Paquette

They went out from us

In the long and weary history of the Church, one testimony remains unaltered: *The Lord knoweth them that are His*. And should the roll of the “faithful” increase or diminish; should her fortunes ebb or flow; should the warm tracery of sunlight caress her face, or the cold darkness of night press her sore, *He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*. All great and noble causes; and good and righteous men, have endured traitors, betrayers, and Judases. Despair and trepidation are for them who are devoid of all hope, and not for those whose *help is the Lord*.

There appears some panic, amongst certain Christians that some notable ones have run to Rome, and with mouths *speaking great things*, defend her institutions, justify her liturgy, and laud her power. But what of it? Is our cause lost? Shall some now fail to be saved who might have been otherwise? I fear not that the truth shall loose, nor do I fear the truth being lost. In short, I see Christ victorious, and *Babylon the Great*, cast down. And I see Jesus, with nary a jewel absent from His crown.

Also of your own selves shall men arise

Life is filled with unexpected surprises, and it’s a delight and surprise for me to share how I came to see the Roman Catholic Church to be the family of God that He wants all of his children to share in. Fulton Sheen once said, and I paraphrase, that there are not 100 people in the United States who hate the Catholic Church, although there might be millions of people who hate what they mistakenly believe the Catholic Church to be and teach. And thankfully I discovered I fell into the second category. Because for years I opposed the Catholic Church, and I worked hard to get Catholics to leave the Church. But I came to see through a lot of study and considerable prayer that the Roman Catholic Church is based in Scriptures.¹

Scott Hahn, is one amongst several who have turned apologist for Rome, but this Catholic convert and tergiversatory, titular “theologian,” does not shed new light upon scripture, nor favorable light upon Rome. He seeks to secure the same fetters upon others that he gleefully fastened to himself. He pledges to indemnify them in their anti-biblical religion by attempting to clad the magisterium with scant verses, or by leading adherents and proselytes down twisted passages. What will be the result of his effort and evil? He will make them *twofold more the child of hell*.

In a brief article at his website, Hahn commends and recommends, the Catholic document: “The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church.” This prolix paper is typical of Papal endeavors, where verbiage supplants value. The authors, in theory at least, concede these points:

¹ The Scott Hahn Conversion Story; Transcript on The Coming Home Network

It is not a matter of *projecting novel opinions or ideologies* upon biblical writings but of sincerely seeking to discover what the text has to say at the present time. The text of the Bible has authority over the Christian church at all times, and, although centuries have passed since the time of its composition, the text retains its role of privileged guide not open to manipulation.²

But, in the real world of the Vatican, *theory* is invalidated by fact, and truth annulled by falsehood. The fact is, that Rome's magisterium is rife with "novel opinions" and "ideologies" which she projects upon, and beyond, "biblical writings," notwithstanding her declaration that "[t]he magisterium of the church 'is not above the word of God.'"³ Her apologist and teachers successively and continually engage in "manipulation of the text." Her teaching, liturgy, vestures, offices, and history, perpetuate their pagan origins, and it is duplicitous for her to laud the bible as her "privileged guide."

They shall run to and fro

Should it not cause great wonder that after 1700 years of existence, according to Hahn, the papacy is still calling for the development of "a biblical theology of the covenant."⁴ Why does not Rome's "sweet Christ on earth,"⁵ shed some empyreal light upon this dilemma, *ex cathedra*? Surely a 'Holy See' that claims the authority and power to trumpet the 'Immaculate Conception,' and 'The Assumption,' as theological facts, *sans* any scriptural support, can proclaim, just as authoritatively, 'a biblical theology of the covenant?' Hahn does not recognize the intrinsic illogic of his master's call. In spite of the great span of her existence, and the vaunted roll of her 'doctors' and 'scholars,' and the voluminous writings, encyclicals, and bulls of her 'fathers', and the exalted claims of her Pontifex Maximus, Rome still finds herself bereft of "biblical theology."

With Rome's credentials of primacy and supremacy, so evidently debatable, it is staggering that Hahn cleaves blindly to her avouched infallibility whilst further confessing her obvious fallibility:

Thus, when the Vatican's Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education published guidelines, *On the Theological Formation of Future Priests*, this is what it concluded: "After the introductory questions have been handled, the teaching of Sacred Scripture *must culminate in a biblical theology* which gives a unified vision of the Christian mystery."

Unfortunately, many seminarians and priest express concern and regret that in their training there was barely enough time to get through the introductory questions and critical issues – so they never got the big picture, the unified vision of biblical theology.

² The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church by The Pontifical Commission; IV, A., 1; (author's italics)

³ Ibid

⁴ "Pope John Paul II, ... called for the development of 'a biblical theology of the covenant.'" – from Hahn's article: What is Biblical Theology?

⁵ Blasphemous designation for the pope – "Let us try to imitate this love, and veneration for the Pope. His dignity as the Vicar of Christ, as 'the sweet Christ on earth,' is more than sufficient reason..."; a homily by Bishop Javier Echevarria, given at St. Eugene's Basilica in Rome, Oct.10th, 2002

They also admit that this has greatly weakened their ability to preach and explain God's Word.⁶

In acknowledgement of the "authority" that the Bible "has over the church at all times," it must be asked: Which "questions and critical issues" superceded the Bible, and biblical theology, in the training of Rome's priests? Or, to satisfy the semasiology of Rome, I will phrase it thus, lest pedants take umbrage: What is more important than a *biblical theology which gives a unified vision of the Christian mystery*, since apparently, this is so important to preaching and explaining God's word? The Baltimore Catechism confidently asserts:

We can know the true meaning of the Bible from the teaching authority of the Catholic Church, which has received from Jesus Christ the right and the duty to teach and to explain all that God has revealed.⁷

Has Rome not therefore failed in that "duty"? As a result of the deficient training which they received, her priests confess that they possess insufficient ability to "preach and explain God's Word." At best they will be teaching from a position of weakness, perhaps error, make that – additional error, might creep in. Should the laity not charge the hierarchy with malfeasance, or at the least, dereliction of that duty? Inside the cover of the Baltimore Catechism is printed this extravagant promise:

The faithful who devote twenty minutes to a half hour to teaching or studying Christian Doctrine, may gain:

*An indulgence of 3 years. A plenary indulgence on the usual conditions twice a month, if the above practice is carried out at least twice a month.*⁸

- Apostolic Brief, March 12, 1930; S. P. Ap., May 26, 1949

How many faithful have been compelled to endure a protracted punishment in "purgatory," as a direct result of a dearth of doctrine?

The previous pope attempted to correct "an exaggeratedly anthropocentric current common in the theology and catechesis of the seventies since the beginning of his Pontificate, he has tried to restore the mystery of Jesus Christ, *Redemptor hominis*, to the Church in all its splendor."⁹ Is all of this lost upon Hahn; Rome's claim of impeccability versus the stain of inadequacy? In the light of such failure, it is miraculous then, that Rome has been able to preserve (let alone having originally discerned), the choreography of the mass; the convoluted mystery of Mariolatry; the orchestration of saints and the liturgical year; the catalogue of indulgences; onerous magisterium; the litany of prayers, invocations, benedictions and beads; scapulars; shrines, idols, preponderance of religious orders, vestments, chalices, candles, relics etc., etc., etc. Succored by the spurious "unanimous consent," and the equally fictitious Petrine lineage, of her popes, and laboring within an institution that boasts she is "irreformable,"¹⁰ Hahn lumbers on.

⁶ What Is Biblical Theology?; by Scott Hahn

⁷ The New Saint Joseph Baltimore Catechism; Imprimatur: Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York

⁸ Ibid

⁹ John Paul II's Christological Catechesis; Angelo Amato, sdb

¹⁰ Vatican II documents No. 28, *Lumen Gentium*, p. 380

A neophyte with a dictionary could deduce that “biblical theology” means, ‘the study of God based upon the teachings of the Bible’. And Scripture must not be manipulated to conform to denominational, or sectarian doctrinal preferences. Instead, all particular and individual dogmas, tenets, philosophies, creeds, beliefs, precepts, teachings, and claims, must stand before its definitive scrutiny. However, this truth is only tolerable as a theory, and so Hahn is constrained to a classic Catholic “manipulation”:

Biblical theology is based upon God’s Fatherly plan (“divine economy”), the unity of the Old and the New Testaments (“typology”), and how this applies for us today in all seven sacraments, especially the Mass (“mystagogy”).¹¹

A simple definition will not suffice, for true to his Papal master, Hahn must force the “Mass” into the equation like an essential component, because Rome stands or falls on the four “M’s”: the Miter, the Mass, the Magisterium, and Mariolatry. In characteristic papalese he outlines some parameters of the “covenant”, or “unified vision,”; the only arena where the Bible is allowed to appear. “Our Lord God the Pope,” forbid that any poor Catholic (or any Catholic teaching, for that matter) rely solely upon Scripture.

We can *only* hear His words surely if we stay close to Him in the Eucharist and remain united to Peter’s successor, the vicar of Christ.¹²

The papal leash will not allow Hahn to wander too close to the truth. Jesus said, *My sheep hear my voice*, but Hahn adds, “only...if we stay close to Him in the Eucharist and remain united to Peter’s successor.” Thank heavens for Hahn’s ability to read between the lines.

They speak a vision of their own heart

What will Hahn’s “biblical theology” amount to? He will call upon half-truths, and untruths, to parade themselves as the Word of God. He will spin a few threads of scripture together, and declare that he has fashioned robes fit for his queen. He will attempt to burnish the pyrite of the papal crown, and present Rome’s High Priest as “the sweet ‘king of kings, and lord of lords,’ on earth.” He will defend the devil’s doctrine of celibacy as a holy sacrament of Christianity. Then he will have to pervert, distort, and deny the verity of Christ’s completed propitiation, and pretend to crucify Him afresh upon a myriad of altars by a hoard of priests. In other words, he will offer the world no new thing, but the hoary head of paganism peering out of the temple.

There will be those within the Catholic pale that will rejoice in Hahn’s alliance, cherishing it as indisputable victory, but they are ignorant of this fact, it is the sole weight and authority of Scripture that matters, arguments to the contrary notwithstanding. And, does it not strike Rome’s faithful as odd that she had to look outside of her own institutions to find a champion?

Those who challenge Rome’s claims and criticize her teachings, are often charged with hatemongering, but this is wrong. The Bible commands us to ‘search the scriptures,’ ‘try the spirits,’ and ‘earnestly contend for the faith’. It warns us of ‘false teachers,’ and ‘false doctrine’.

¹¹ What Is Biblical Theology?; by Scott Hahn

¹² You Have The Words Of Life; Scott Hahn (author’s italics)

It is therefore every Christian's duty to examine Rome's teachings and say; *To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*¹³ Scott Hahn has been lured by Rome's fair speech, and the scent of her perfumed bed, caring not that *her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.*¹⁴

¹³ Isaiah 8:20

¹⁴ Proverbs 7:27