

Prophetic Intelligence Briefing

- **Baptists Meet with Pope · 2 days ago**

On December 6, 2007, the Catholic News Agency reported that "Baptist leaders from around the world met with Pope Benedict XVI this morning at the Vatican as the second round of Baptist-Catholic talks continued. Saying that the lack of unity among Christians contradicts Christ's will, Benedict XVI told the Baptist..."

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On December 6, 2007, the Catholic News Agency reported that "Baptist leaders from around the world met with Pope Benedict XVI this morning at the Vatican as the second round of Baptist-Catholic talks continued. Saying that the lack of unity among Christians contradicts Christ's will, Benedict XVI told the Baptist delegation that the world needs 'our common witness to Christ and to the hope brought by the Gospel.'"

The theme of the talks *The Word of God in the Life of the Church: Scripture, Tradition and Koinonia*, "offers a promising context for the examination of such historically disputed issues," said the Pope, "as the relationship between Scripture and Tradition, the understanding of Baptism and the Sacraments, the place of Mary in the communion of the Church, and the nature of... primacy in the Church's ministerial structure."

The Pope concluded his remarks by saying that the lack of unity between Christians "openly contradicts the will of Christ, provides a stumbling block to the world, and harms the most holy cause of proclaiming the good news of every creature."

This is the second series of meetings between that Baptist World Alliance and the Vatican said Zenit, a Catholic internet news agency. "The first series of talks took place between 1984 and 1988. The current series, which began in December of 2006 in Birmingham, Alabama, will continue through 2010... The Baptist World Alliance is a fellowship of 214 Baptist conventions and unions comprising a membership of 36 million baptized believers and a community of 105 million." While this doesn't represent all Baptists, it is certainly a very large and significant group.

The Baptist churches have historically stood for religious liberty and baptism by immersion and the Bible only. However, they have a strong commitment to tradition just as Rome does, even giving it more authority than scripture in some cases, such as concerning Sunday worship. Therefore they are very vulnerable to Rome's ecumenical movement, and now they are discussing with Rome the very issues that Baptists have long been known to oppose, infant baptism (in context of their own teaching on immersion), Mariology and the primacy of the Pope over the churches, both of which they have long opposed as idolatry and imposition. Rome has made enormous progress in fulfilling her prophetic destiny to sit as a queen atop the world's governments and religions, according to the prophecy of Revelation 18.
