

JOHN NELSON DARBY, NOT A JESUIT

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The internet is full of information and misinformation.

One internet site refers to John Nelson Darby as a Jesuit.

Darby (1800-1882) was a leader of the brethren, a group of evangelical Christians renowned for their devotion to the Bible and its exposition and their opposition to the established church and to clericalism, the use of clergy.

The Jesuits, or the Society of Jesus, are the military arm of the Roman Catholic Church. They were the military force of the Spanish Armada that came to England in 1588 with weapons and instruments of torture to force the English to accept Roman Catholicism. Some history books do not admit to this, but say that Spain wanted to overthrow Elizabeth I and terminate England's involvement in the Spanish Netherlands and end English acts on piracy on the high seas. Such an action to force Catholicism on the English was certainly not Christian and so one could justifiably say that Catholics and Jesuits were not Christians... at least, not in practise.

Before the Spaniard, Ignatius of Loyola became the general of the Jesuits, the Catholic Church had a military force and formed violent Inquisitions from about 538 to 1798 throughout Europe. Again this is contrary to the teaching of Christ and therefore blatantly non-Christian.

The Jesuits were commissioned by the Pope at the Council of Trent in 1545 to counter the Protestant application that the Antichrist was the Catholic Church.

As a result of this, even more Christians believed that the Roman Catholic Church was the Antichrist, the Man of Sin referred to in 2 Thessalonians and in the book of the Revelation. He will be an evil despot obeying Satan, the Devil himself and forcing people to worship the devil and also owe allegiance to him.

But Darby believed that the Antichrist would probably be a Jew since, among other things, it is said that he would reign in Jerusalem.

Members of the Catholic church and the Jesuits also believed this, particularly as they wanted to contradict the doctrine that the Pope and the Catholic Church were to be the Antichrist.

In February 1845, a Jesuit revolt broke out in Canton Vaud in France. Many brethren, including Darby, had to flee back to England from Europe. Darby was strongly anti-Catholic and all forms of clericalism. In the 1820s in Calary, Ireland, he recommended that the peasants abandon the Catholic Church.

That his beliefs about the Antichrist agreed, to some extent, with the teachings of the Jesuits does not make him a Jesuit.

I believe in baptism by immersion for all believers who can state for themselves their faith in Christ, which is what Baptist churches practise, but I am not a Baptist.

It is true that Darby read Catholic books and studied their doctrines but that did not make him a Catholic. He was interested in prophecy and what other denominations believed.

He studied Wesleyan teaching and the doctrines of Methodism but that did not make him a Methodist.

In fact, he wrote about Methodists — some of whom held the belief that everyone would go to Heaven... eventually — since God was love and would not send, or allow anyone to go to Hell.

J N Darby was not a Jesuit.

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