

SCARLET AND THE BEAST

VOLUME I

The adversary of Almighty God is manipulating events to bring about his long-desired universal government of Antichrist. His fight for world dominion began at Eden, where he whispered his plans to Adam and Eve. Within two millenniums Satan had captured all but eight of the Human race - Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives. God stopped Satan's attempt toward globalism with a universal flood. After the Great Flood, Satan tried at Babylon to reestablish globalism, but God stopped him again. Satan then took his conspiracy underground. It became known as Mystery Babylon.

The adversary's clandestine plan is still being directed from behind the lodge doors of mystery religions today, the most powerful of which is Freemasonry. Here we can find the Babylonian plans to inaugurate a godless one world government. Freemasonry plans a Universal Empire, the same spoken of by the prophets Daniel and John. We will reveal their plans in this book.

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SCARLET

Merovingian Dynasty (496 A.D.)
|
Priory of Sion (1090)
|
Rosicrucianism (1188)
|
ENGLISH FREEMASONRY (1600s)
|
United Grand Lodge (1717)

(Mother of all modern secret societies and cults)

|
Wealthy
|
Right Wing
|
Deistic/Pantheistic/New Age
|

Aristocratic
|
Kings
Lords
Counts
Barons
etc.

Middle to
Upper
Class
|
Financiers
Land Barons
Professionals

Pro-business
Capitalistic
Monopolistic
|
Multinational Corps.
World Bank-IMF-BIS
Drug Financiers

Constitutional
Monarchy
|
Corporate
Socialism

Dominates:

Great Britain, Canada, Northeast USA (Eastern Establishment), most oriental countries, Hong Kong, Australia, and South Africa.

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THE BEAST

Merovingian Dynasty (496 A.D.)

Priory of Sion (1090)

Knights Templar (1118)

FRENCH FREEMASONRY (1725)

French Grand Lodge (1743) - French Grand Orient (1772)
(also known as Continental or Latin Freemasonry)

Poor

Left-Wing

Atheistic
|

Proletariat	Lower to Middle	Anti-business	
Republic	Class		
		Labor Unions	Democratic
Socialistic	Common Laborer	Organized Crime	
Communitistic	Some Professionals	Drug Cartels	
	Some Wealthy		

Dominants:

Continent of Europe, southern and Western U.S.A., former U.S.S.R., Pacific Islands, Philippines, Latin and South America, Africa (has recently taken over South Africa).

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THE CONFLICT:

PRIORY OF SION VERSUS KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Secret societies by virtue of their very secrecy have often kept historians at bay, and the historians, reluctant to confess their ignorance, prefer to diminish the consequence of their subject. Freemasonry.. is of vital importance to any social, psychological, cultural or political history of eighteenth-century Europe, and even to the founding of the United States; but most history books don't even mention it. It is almost as if an implicit policy obtained: If something cannot be exhaustively documented, it must be irrelevant and thereby not worth discussing I at all.

Investigators of the Holy Grail'

Freemasonry, French and English, as we know it today, finds its roots in two organizations of the Middle Ages - the Priory of Sion and the Order of the Knights Templar.

What follows is the fascinating, if sometimes complicated and obscure history, of how these two modern, anti-Christian secular secret societies - English and French Freemasonry - developed from two groups that themselves had roots in the occult. We will see how the Priory of Sion desired to rule the world from the throne of David in Jerusalem through its counterfeit Jewish Merovingian bloodline, and how its own creation, the Knights Templar, moved beyond its role as police and protector of Sion to financial masters of medieval Europe. We will trace the alliance of Sion and the Templars, their dispute over the discovery of Solomon's treasures, and the terrible intrigues which followed that led to the undoing of the Templars in their struggle over wealth, power, and politics.

We will reveal the beliefs of these two groups: that Jesus fathered children by Mary Magdalene; that a spiritual god of good (Satan) battles a material god of evil; that Lucifer, not Jesus, deserves worship; that a "Spear of Destiny" (later sought and possessed by Hitler) allows the holder to rule the world. We will also present data about the whereabouts of King Solomon's wealth, the plan to one day return it to

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Jerusalem, and reveal that the ultimate goal of these two groups is world government, and that their descendants, English and French Freemasonry, desire the same.

The Historical Trail: The Priory of Sion and the Holy Grail

In 1982 and 1986 three secular revisionist authors, Michael Baigent~ Richard Leigh, and Henry Lincoln published *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* followed by *The Messianic Legacy*. These two books dramatically reveal a secret order structured in the manner of Freemasonry, and founded in Europe twelve centuries before the Grand Lodge was officially formed in 1717. This order protects both the Holy Grail and the Merovingian bloodline, which bloodline carried Mystery Babylon into the Catholic Church in 496 A.D.

The Holy Grail, of course, is the so-called cup from which Jesus drank at the Last Supper. The Merovingians, owners of the Holy Grail, teach that Jesus fathered children by Mary Magdalene. The Merovingians claim to be the offspring of that "holy" union, and as such, assert they are Jews of the Davidic line.

In Revelation 17:3-5 the apostle John describes a vision, which Rev. J. R. Church in *Guardians of the Grail* believes is fulfilled in the Grail legend. The Whore of Babylon is holding in her hand a golden cup full of blasphemy. Church believes the cup is the blasphemous Holy Grail

Another element of the Grail legend is the spear supposed to have pierced the side of Jesus, also known as the Spear of Longinus or the Spear of Destiny. Whoever possesses this spear, so the legend goes, will rule the world. The Merovingians, whose descendants are the Habsburg pretenders to the Austrian throne today, are in possession of the spear. It is on display in the Habsburg museum in Vienna, Austria~ No one, however, knows the location of the Holy Grail. At least no one is telling.

Although heretical, this secret society should not be discounted, for it is alive and well today. In fact, in 1956, an Order calling itself the Priore de Sion, or Priory of Sion, registered itself publicly for the first time with the French government. (Sion is French for Zion.) It is from this Order that the legend of the Holy Grail originated five centuries after Christ's death.

Rev. Church remarks of this organization:

This mysterious group is presently made up of over 9,000 men, including Protestants, Roman Catholics, Jews, and

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Moslems. The members of this secret sect should be considered unfaithful to their respective beliefs, for in reality they are neither Christian nor Catholic, they are neither Jew nor Moslem. Their doctrine sidesteps the basic tenets of those beliefs and replaces them with the teachings of their greatest prophet - whom they believe to be Buddha.²

From this secret order J. R. Church believes will come the Anti-Christ, for he writes, "Their ultimate goal is world government!

Documentation: Ancient Parchments of the Priory of Sion

Sion's ruling adepts are known as "Nautonniers," meaning navigators, pilots, or helmsmen. Their duty is to steer the course plotted by the Priory of Sion. One Nautonnier is alive at all times and another is always being prepared to take his place. We shall refer to these Nautonniers as Grand Masters.

"1982, the Grand Master of Sion was a man named Pierre Plantard, according to the authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*. In *The Messianic Legacy* these authors interviewed Plantard, who told them the Priory of Sion "actually possessed the lost treasure of the Temple of Jerusalem. It would be returned to Israel, he said, 'when the time is right.'"⁴

Before 1956 no "outsider" had ever heard of the Priory of Sion. Yet, as the authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* in 1982 wrote:

Since 1956 a quantity of relevant material has been deliberately and systematically "leaked" in a piecemeal fashion, fragment by fragment. Most of these fragments purport, implicitly or explicitly, to issue from some "privileged" or "inside" source. Most contain additional information, which supplements what was known before and thus contributes to the overall jigsaw. Neither the import nor the meaning of the overall jigsaw has yet been made clear, however. Instead, every new snippet of

information has done more to intensify than to dispel the mystery. The result has been an ever-proliferating network of seductive allusions, provocative hints, suggestive cross-references and connections. In confronting the welter of data now available, the reader may well feel he is being toyed with - or being ingeniously and skillfully led from conclusion to conclusion by successive carrots dangled before his nose.

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And underlying it all is the constant, pervasive intimation of a secret - a secret of monumental and explosive proportions.⁵

The authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* embarked on a ten-year investigation that took them throughout Europe. The results of their investigation caused astounding repercussions. One example is the Hollywood "Indiana Jones" trilogy, based upon their research. Moviegoers will recognize *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *The Temple of Doom*, and *The Last Crusade*.

The most important documents discovered by the authors concerning the Priory of Sion came from the Grand Lodge Alpina, the supreme Masonic Lodge of Switzerland - the Swiss equivalent of the Grand Lodge in London and the Grand Orient Lodge in France. These documents called the *Dossiers secret* told of a Catholic priest named Berenger Sauniere, who was also a Freemason. But this Freemasonry, note the authors "differed from most other forms in that it was Christian, Hermetic, and aristocratic."⁶

This description matches that of a Rosicrucian Order founded in 1873, which Sauniere had joined. On June 1, 1885, Sauniere was posted to a little parish in the tiny village of Rennes-le-Chateau in southern France. Eight centuries earlier, in 1059, the village church of Rennes-le-Chateau was consecrated to Mary Magdalene, the patron saint of southern France.

At the time of Sauniere's assignment, the church was in need of repair, and in 1891 Sauniere embarked on a modest restoration. Report the authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, "In the course of his endeavors he removed the altar stone, which rested on two archaic Visigoth columns. One of these columns proved to be hollow. Inside the priest found four parchments preserved in sealed wooden tubes. Two of these parchments are said to have comprised genealogies, one dating from 1244, the other from 1644."~

The Bloodline of Antichrist

These parchments contained a list of Grand Masters of both the Knights Templar and the Priory of Sion, as well as a history of the Merovingian bloodline. The heading of one of the documents was in cipher. When translated it read: "To Dagobert II King and to Sion belongs this treasure and he is there dead."

The research undertaken by the authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* primarily centered around authenticating these genealogies. They

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discovered that the *Secret Dossiers*, cataloged in the Alpina Masonic Lodge, were amazingly accurate. Their investigations revealed what secular history has forgotten, or has intentionally withheld.

Mystery Babylon Enters the Catholic Church

A complimentary and corrective Christian evaluation of what these researchers have discovered is provided by Rev. J.R. Church in his *Guardians of the Grail*. Church writes:

According to the tenets of the organization [Priory of Sion], Jesus Christ did not die on Calvary - but merely pretended to die, was taken from the cross, stolen from the tomb, and was believed to have married Mary Magdalene and even produced children.

They claim that when the Romans destroyed the Temple at Jerusalem in 70 A.D., the Magdalene fled with her sacred children by boat across the Mediterranean to France. There she found refuge in a Jewish community. Future generations of her offspring were said to have married into the royal Frankish

family and by the fifth century produced a king.

His name was Merovee. He was the first in a series of kings called the Merovingian bloodline. It is said that the offspring of Merovee were noted for a birthmark above the heart - a small red cross. This symbol eventually became the emblem of the Guardians of the Grail.

Merovee, king of the Franks from 447 to 458 A.D., was an adherent of the religious cult of Diana. His son, Childeric I (458-481 A.D.) practiced witchcraft. His son, Clovis I (481-511 A.D.) adopted Christianity in 496 A.D.

In 496 A.D., the Bishop of Rome made a pact with Clovis, the grandson of Merovee, and king of the Franks, calling him the "New Constantine," giving him authority to preside over a "Christianized" Roman empire. (The term "Holy Roman Empire" was not officially used until 962 A.D.)

The so-called offspring of Mary Magdalene were thus established as leaders of the empire.⁸

Rev. Church believes that the Merovingian bloodline and its protector, the Priory of Sion, is an arm of Mystery Babylon, if not Scarlet herself. Their religion is not new, but rather, the revival of the old religion at Babylon, altered to deceive the Church.

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Initially the Vatican was ignorant of the "Holy Blood" heresy that had entered the Church. In time it would be discovered, and an excise attempted. But the Merovingians would secretly buy their way back into the Roman Church through simony, the practice of buying or selling ecclesiastical appointments, pardons, and benefits. The word simony" derives from Simon Magus, a Samaritan who tried to purchase from the apostles Peter and John the power of conferring the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:18-19).

J.R. Church traces the lineage of these Merovingian kings documenting that most European royalty descends from this bloodline, including the Habsburg dynasty and the present royalty of Spain.⁹

Today, twelve royal families in Europe have Grail blood.¹⁰ Claiming to be descendants of Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene, they believe themselves Jews of the line of David. Among their many noble names is the title "King of Jerusalem," which title was given them at the successful conclusion of the First Crusade. Rev. Church believes this title, of course, blasphemous. In fact, they are usurpers of the Davidic line.¹¹

Jesus Christ speaks to such a heresy in Revelation 3:9, where He admonishes the Philadelphia Church, representing Church history from approximately 1750 to the 1900s: "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and know that I have loved thee."

The Secret Life of Dagobert II

In 1891, when Freemason Sauniere discovered the Priory of Sion *Dossiers secret* parchments at Rennes-le-Chateau, one was headed with the inscription: "To Dagobert II King and to Sion belongs this treasure and he is there dead."

History speaks of Dagobert I and Dagobert III, but remains silent on Dagobert U. Who is he? And why has he been removed from historical records? What secret did he possess that caused European royalty and the Vatican to fear him to the extent of excising his name from memory, if in fact he ever existed?

Research by the authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* unveiled Dagobert U. Clovis was succeeded by his son Dagobert II, born in 651 A.D. Clovis ruled the Franks and Gauls from France, and died when Dagobert was age five. A struggle broke out for ascendancy to the throne. Five-year-old Dagobert II was reported to have been killed. But the fact is he was kidnapped by a Catholic priest and spirited away to Ireland where

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he was raised and protected at the Irish monastery of Slane, "not far from Dublin; and here, at the school attached to the monastery, he received an education unobtainable in France at the time."²

In 666 A.D., Dagobert married a Celtic princess, fathering three daughters, but no sons. Soon he moved to England, establishing residence at York. His first wife died in 670 A.D., and Dagobert II returned to France. He married his second wife, Giselle de Razes, daughter of the count of Razes and niece of the king of the

Visigoths in southern France. The marriage was celebrated at Rennes-le-Chateau, a Visigoth bastion, the same village where Sauniere found the secret geneologies in 1891. With this marriage the Merovingian bloodline was now allied with the royal bloodline of the Visigoths, who had strong gnostic tendencies. Dagobert II was in fact converted to the religion of his wife, turning away from his Catholic heritage. For three years Dagobert bided his time at Rennes-le-Chateau, watching the changes made in his domains to the north. Finally, in 674 A.D., with the support of his mother and her advisers, the long-exiled monarch announced who he was, reclaimed his realm, and was officially proclaimed king of Austrasia, which took in the territory of northwestern Europe and parts of what are now Germany and Austria.¹³



Dagobert II established a coat of arms for Rennes-le-Chateau consisting of two triangles interlaced, one white and upright, the other black and up-side-down, forming a six-pointed star.¹⁴ This emblem has enabled researchers to trace the migration of the Priory of Sion over the centuries, for it is a dominant symbol used in Freemasonry. *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* defines the six-pointed star as representing the good and evil powers in life,¹⁵ a division of powers which was held by the gnostic Visigoths. In fact, this star is in mosaic on the lobby floor of many Masonic Lodges today.¹⁶ From it has developed the Square and Compass. (See Figs. 4 & 5, Appendix

2.)

Assassination of Dagobert II

Dagobert was a worthy successor to Clovis. Austrasia had been broken up into small principalities. Anarchy prevailed, so he set about asserting and consolidating his authority, reestablishing order. His firm rule broke the various rebellious nobles who had mobilized

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sufficient military and economic power to challenge him. He drew upon his substantial treasury at Rennes-le-Chateau, using these resources to finance the reconquest of Austrasia.¹⁷ Dagobert U also set himself against the Roman Church. His newly acquired gnostic beliefs left him no room for Christianity. On every front he curbed the expansion of the Vicar of Christ. By this time Rome was knowledgeable of the Merovingian heresy, and could not permit it to continue. On December 23, 679 A.D., while resting under a tree during a hunt in the Arteries forests of northern France, Dagobert was assassinated. His assassins then returned to his northern palace, intent on exterminating the rest of the royal family.

Survival of the Merovingians

Before the discoveries of the authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, Dagobert's assassination was regarded as the end of the Merovingian dynasty. At least this is what the Catholic Church wanted the world to believe. In its place in 754 A.D. Rome established the Carolingian dynasty with Pepin II. The name "Carolingian" derives from Charles Martel, grandfather of Charlemagne, the first designated "Holy Roman Emperor." This title, by virtue of the pact with Clovis three centuries before, should have been reserved exclusively for the Merovingians.

The authors of *Holy Blood* discovered, however, that Dagobert's son (Sigisbert IV) by his second wife had survived. His sister had rescued him and smuggled him southward to the domain of his mother, the Visigoth princess Giselle de Razes. Arriving in the Lanquedoc (southern France) in 681 A.D., he shortly thereafter inherited his uncle's titles - Duke of Razes and Count of Rhedae. Sigisbert also adopted the surname "Plant-Ard" (subsequently Plantard), which means "ardently flowering shoot" of the Merovingian vine. Under this name, and under the titles acquired from his uncle, he perpetuated his lineage. By 886 A.D. one branch of that lineage culminated in a certain Bernard Plantavelu (which name is a derivative of Plant-Ard or Plantard), whose son became the first Duke of Aquitaine.¹⁸

Guiflem: Father of the Grail Family

For 100 years after the murder of Dagobert II, the Merovingian bloodline was protected by an unnamed secret society. Then in 790 A.D., one Guillem de Gellone assumed "the title of count of Razès - the title

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Sigisbert is said to have possessed and passed on to his descendants He was to direct the reestablishment of the Merovingian line.

Guillem was one of the most famous men of his time. So much so, report the *Holy Blood* authors, "that his historical reality.. has been obscured by legend. Before the epoch of the Crusades there were at least six major epic poems composed about him, *chansons de geste* similar to the famous *Chanson de Roland*. In *The Divine Comedy* Dante accorded him a uniquely exalted status. But even before Dante, Guillem had again become an object of literary attention. In the early thirteenth century he figured as the protagonist of *Willehalm*, an unfinished epic romance composed by Wolfram von Eschenbach - whose most famous work, *Parzival*, is probably the most important of all romances dealing with the mysteries of the Holy Grail... Wolfram stated in another poem that the 'Grail castle,' abode of the 'Grail family,' was situated in the Pyrenes [southern France], in what, at the beginning of the ninth century, was Guillem de Gellone's domain."²⁰

Power Marriages and the Grail Blood

Guillem maintained a close rapport with Charlemagne of the Carolingian dynasty. His sister married one of Charlemagne's sons, thus establishing once again the Merovingian bloodline in European royalty. "By 886 A.D. the line of Guillem de Gellone culminated.. in [Bernard Plantavelu-Plantard], precisely the same individual as...Sigisbert IV and his descendants."²¹ The authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* believe that Guillem de Gellone was in fact Sigisbert VI, grandson of Sigisbert IV, thus making him the great grandson of Dagobert II.

Sigisbert VI was also known as Prince Ursus. *Ursus* in Latin means an echo. As subsequently became apparent, he was indeed an echo of Dagobert II. Between 877 A.D. and 879 A.D. Prince Ursus was officially proclaimed King Ursus. He undertook an insurrection against Louis II of France in an attempt to reestablish the Merovingian dynasty. The insurrection, however, failed. Prince Ursus and his supporters were defeated at a battle near Pointiers in 881 A.D. With this setback, the Plantard family lost its possessions in the south of France. Ursus died in Brittany (northwest France), his line allied by marriage with the Breton ducal house. By the turn of the ninth century the Merovingian blood had flowed into the duchies of both Brittany and Aquitaine.

Approximately two centuries before the Crusades the Plantard family sought refuge in England, establishing an English branch of the family

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called Planta. From this line came Bera VI, nicknamed "the Architect." It is interesting to note that he and his descendants, having found a haven in England under King Atheistan, practiced "the art of building." The authors of *Holy Blood* state that "Masonic sources date the origin of Freemasonry in England from the reign of King Athelstan. Could the Merovingian bloodline.. in addition to its claim to the French throne, be in some way connected with something at the core of Freemasonry?"²²

The Crusades and a Secret Society

"The Crusades," writes Rev. J.R. Church, "played an important part in the promotion of the Merovingian bloodline. Many of the Crusaders were French who went to Palestine to liberate the Holy Land from the Moslems. The Catholic Crusaders had conquered the city of Jerusalem and established Godfroi de Bouillon on the throne of Jerusalem. Claiming to be of the lineage of David, Godfroi de Bouillon organized a secret society called the Ordre de Sion."²³

Sion: Cult of the Holy Grail

The authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* elucidate the byzantine political and family ambitions of the Merovingian clan which lie behind Godfroi de Bouillon's participation in the Crusades.

A half century before the completion of the First Crusade of 1099, Godfroi reigned in the vicinity of the Ardennes Forest in northern France where Dagobert II had been assassinated five centuries earlier. As we have noted, three centuries after this murder, Dagobert's great grandson, Prince Ursus (Sigisbert VI) was defeated near Pointiers in 881 A.D. Upon this setback, the Merovingians established and funded a foundation of monks in Calabria, in southern Italy, to alert them of any Vatican developments against their bloodline. For the next 200 years the Holy Grail bloodline continued the practice of simony, while the monks in Calabria waited, watched and listened. In 1070 a pope ascended Peter's throne who might cause problems for the Merovingians. This was three decades before the First Crusade.

The Merovingians Plot and Plan

The Calabrian monks immediately embarked on a journey to northern France to visit Godfroi de Bouillon. They were aware of his

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so-called Holy Blood heritage. Their leader was one named Ursus, a name, as we have seen, associated with the Merovingian bloodline. When the monks identified themselves to Godfroi as the protectors of the Holy Grail, they were given the tract of land at Orval where Dagobert II was assassinated. There they built an abbey. Traveling with them was also the man subsequently known as Peter the Hermit.

The purpose of the monks' journey was two-fold. First, they warned Godfroi of the whisperings in the Vatican. Pope Alexander II (1061-1073) was promoting the abolition of simony. Since the usurpation of the throne of the Holy Roman Empire by the Carolingians, simony had been the primary means by which the Merovingians for centuries had penetrated the Vatican in an attempt to regain their ascendancy. Apparently, the pope was aware of their methods and aims. Therefore, the second purpose for the monks' journey was to present a plan to preempt the pope.

To Rule the World from the Throne of David

The Merovingian cult of the Holy Grail needed the Catholic Church to establish its legitimacy: not only to regain the coveted position of Holy Roman Emperor, but also to legitimize its claim to the throne of Israel. The Merovingians' ultimate goal was to rule the world from the Davidic throne at Jerusalem. The papal plan to eliminate simony would eliminate the Merovingians main avenue into the Church and its power.

Therefore, the monks encouraged Godfroi de Bouillon to start a Holy War against the Muslims for the conquest of Jerusalem, deport the Muslims, and establish himself as King of Jerusalem on David's throne before Pope Alexander could make any headway in once again excising the Merovingians.

Pope Alexander died three years after the monks' meeting with Godfroi. The next Pope, Gregory VII, took up Alexander's cause and in 1073 began his series of reforms, of which Malachi Martin has written in his book *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Church* (1981). Martin says that Gregory continued the abolition of simony, forbidding "under the direst penalties all and every and any investiture of any cleric (bishop, priest, abbot, deacon, sub deacon) by any lay ruler from the Holy Roman emperor down to the most impotent village squire in Haddam-Haddam, England."²⁴ His papal order was also meant to free the enormous real estate holdings of the church from control and possession by kings and princes. This was to strike at the very feudal system itself, the only system Europe at that time knew.

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Gregory apparently was appraised of Alexander's suspicion - that there was still a Merovingian "echo" of Dagobert II about. The confiscation of royal land holdings, in addition to the abolition of simony, would keep Dagobert's descendents from becoming too powerful.

Gregory's plan, if successful, would have been as disastrous to the long-nurtured ambitions of the

Merovingians as Alexander's. Hence, revolt against Gregory boiled over everywhere.²⁵ Meanwhile, the Calabrian monks continued to encourage Godfroi de Bouillon toward Jerusalem.

A King of Jerusalem

Gregory died without achieving his goal of reform. In 1086, Victor III ascended the papal throne. He was no better than Gregory. He died mysteriously within a year. The next pope, however, was a Merovingian, according to the *Secret Dossiers*. The Merovingians through simony had achieved one of their goals. Urban II ascended the throne of Peter in 1088, just one decade before the First Crusade.

Meanwhile, Peter the Hermit tutored Godfroi de Bouillon on his selected appointment to become the King of Jerusalem. In 1090, Godfroi founded the "Order of Sion" in preparation for his mission. On that same date the Calabrian monks departed northern France, their destination Jerusalem.

In 1095, Peter the Hermit, along with Pope Urban II, prepared Europe to mobilize against Palestine by preaching the need for a crusade - "a holy war that would reclaim Christ's sepulchre and the Holy Land from the hands of the Muslim infidel."²⁶ The Crusaders began to march toward Jerusalem. Ursus and Peter the Hermit were already there when the Crusaders arrived.

In 1099, Godfroi de Bouillon, with three other European potentates, conquered Jerusalem. Immediately the Calabrian monks convened in secret conclave with Ursus and Peter the Hermit to elect a King of Jerusalem. Godfroi de Bouillon was offered the throne.

At Godfroi's behest, an abbey was built on Mt. Zion which housed the Order of Sion. When Godfroi died one year later in 1100, his younger brother Baudouin, accepted the tide and throne of King of Jerusalem.

The Knights Templar: Protectors of the Order of Sion

To protect the new King of Jerusalem and his Sion cult, the Order of Sion backed Hugues de Payens in founding the Knights Templar,

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officially organized in 1118. De Payens, as the first Grand Master, created 13 degrees for the Templar Order, an important esoteric number that has enabled conspiracy researchers to track the movements of the Templars to the present.²⁷

"The secret purpose for the Knights Templar," according to J.R. Church, "was to preserve the Merovingian bloodline in hopes of one day establishing a world government and putting their king upon the throne - a king who could claim to be the offspring of Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene."²⁸

The Knights had unofficially been in operation since 1114. At that earlier date they were known as milice du Christ, soldiers of Christ. In March, 1117, King Baudouin I, who owed his throne to the Order of Sion, took the constitution of the Knights Templar to the Order of Sion for approval. The Order of the Knights Templar was approved in 1118.

The Templars became the military and administrative arm of the Order of Sion. Their name derives from their quarters in Sion's fortified abbey above the ruins of Solomon's Temple. The specific site of the Knights' domicile, the wing of the royal palace on the Temple Mount, is believed to be of great significance, for somewhere beneath it was allegedly buried the unfathomable wealth of Solomon.

Solomon's Wealth

We are told in the New International Version of the Bible about King Solomon's tremendous wealth. I Kings 10:14 informs us that 25 tons of gold bullion came into Solomon's treasury every year for 40 years. Based on a modern standard of \$400 an ounce, Solomon would have amassed almost \$13 billion in gold bullion during his reign. I Kings also informs us that this wealth does not include "the revenues from merchants and traders and from all the Arabian kings and the governors of the land." According to I Kings, there was so much gold that silver was considered worthless during the days of Solomon.

Solomon's gold came from a place called Ophir. He had built a navy to bring back the gold from this legendary place. There is also evidence in I Kings that the ships of Tarshish brought gold to Solomon from his mines at Ophir.

When Solomon died, his kingdom divided. Scripture makes no mention of hoards of gold being carried away by conquering kings. Only the gold used in building the Temple was taken, and that is far short of what Scripture indicates Solomon amassed.

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The authors of *Holy Blood* trace the dispersal of Solomon's wealth centuries later: "In 70 A.D. the temple that then stood.. was sacked by Roman legions under Titus. Its treasure was plundered and brought to Rome, then plundered again and perhaps brought to the Pyrenees [southern France]."²⁹ But these plunderings would still not exhaust the abundance of wealth described in Scripture. Where could Solomon's treasure have been hidden?

The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1949, provide a clue. One of the scrolls, the Copper Scroll, "deciphered at Manchester University in 1955-1956, makes explicit reference to great quantities of bullion, sacred vessels, additional unspecified material, and 'treasure' of an indeterminate kind. It cites twenty-four different hoards buried beneath the temple itself."³⁰

The Wealth of the Warrior Monks

According to the *Holy Blood* authors, "the fledgling order" of the Knights Templar, "almost immediately after its inception, undertook excavations beneath the temple."³¹

This "fledgling order," consisting only of nine men, had quartered their horses in the so-called Stables of Solomon directly beneath the temple mount itself and may at first have stumbled across Solomon's ancient treasury. Apparently, something had been found by 1104, because Hughes de Payens, soon-to-be first Grand Master of the Knights, sent word back to the Count of Champagne, his vassal lord in France. The count met immediately and secretly with certain high-ranking nobles, one of whom had already returned from Jerusalem with information of the discovery.

Shortly after this secret meeting the Count of Champagne departed for the Holy Land and remained there four years, apparently as an observer, returning to France in 1108. In 1114 he made a second journey to Palestine, intending to be initiated into the Knights Templar, still called the milice *du Christ*. He stayed only one year, however, returning hastily.

The Templar Intelligence Network

Apparently, while the count was in Jerusalem that year, the Knights, still consisting of nine men, found all the treasure beneath the temple. Returning to France in 1115, the Count began to prepare a depository.

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It was during this time that the Templars developed an intelligence support service to protect the transport of the treasury. John J. Robinson, author of *Born in Blood: The Lost Secrets of Freemasonry* (1989), informs us of the extent of the Templar intelligence network:

The Templars were known to maintain intelligence agents in the principal cities of the Middle East and the Mediterranean coast, and they would necessarily have employed covert means of communication. International financial dealings required total secrecy, naval operations required it to hide shipping information from Moslem or pirate forces, and military administration over two continents would certainly require it. As a matter of record, the Templars gained a reputation, and not a good one, for their dedication to secrecy, even in the meetings and councils of the order.³²

In the ten years that followed, the Templars became immensely wealthy. History informs us that they acquired their wealth from the Crusaders in payment for protection. What is not revealed is that there were

only nine Knights to protect and collect from tens of thousands of Crusaders - an impossible task. Even the authorities of the day knew better. They questioned the Knights about the source of their wealth, especially their gold, and were told they had discovered the alchemical secret of the transmutation of metal.

Propaganda and Influence

Saint Bernard, the foremost spokesman for orthodox Christianity and a dominant influence in the Cistercian monastic order, was a major propagandist for the Templar image and reputation. This, of course, would be the appropriate response of a man who benefited from their wealth. The *Holy Blood* authors report that "By 1115 money was already flowing back to Europe and into the coffers of the Cistercians, who, under Saint Bernard and from their new position of strength, endorsed and imparted credibility to the fledgling Order of the Temple."³³

A decade after the official founding of the Order of Knights Templar, however, there still were only nine members. By then Bernard was working for their establishment as a religious military priesthood in the Church. In one of his tracts he lauds their virtues and qualities, declaring the Templars to be the epitome and apotheosis of Christian values. In 1127, all nine had returned to Europe to a triumphal welcome,

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orchestrated in large part by Saint Bernard. In January 1128, a Church council convened at Troyes, and the Knights were officially recognized and incorporated as a religious-military order. Hughes de Payens was made Grand Master of the order.

Following their approval as an official religious-military order of the Church, the Knights Templar truly became warrior monks. By means of Templar wealth, Bernard guided the Cistercians to spiritual ascendancy in Europe, while Hughes de Payens and Andre de Montbard attained for the Templars a military and administrative ascendancy in the Holy Land, the fame of which quickly spread to Europe.

The next pope, not surprisingly, was a Cistercian monk. A protege' of Bernard of Clairvaux, Innocent II ascended the throne of Peter in 1130. In 1139, Innocent issued a papal bull that the Templars would owe allegiance to no secular or ecclesiastical power other than himself. The authors of *Holy Blood* quite rightly note that the Templars "were rendered totally independent of all kings, princes, and prelates, and of all interference from both political and religious authorities. They had become, in effect, a law unto themselves, an autonomous international empire."³⁴

In 1146, the Templars adopted their famous insignia: the splayed red cross of the Merovingians, placing it on their mantles, swords, buildings, and gravestones. The design changed somewhat over the years, but the cross always remained splayed. Researchers also trace the Templar movements across Europe, Scotland, and England by examining cemeteries for the gravestones displaying this insignia.

With the splayed cross emblazoned on their mantles, the Knights accompanied King Louis VII of France on the Second Crusade. "Here they established their reputation for martial zeal coupled with an almost insane foolhardiness and fierce arrogance as well," report the authors of *Holy Blood*. "On the whole, however, they were magnificently disciplined - the most disciplined fighting force in the world at the time."³⁵

Heresy, Perversion and Bloodshed: Templars and the Cathars

In 1153, Bertrand de Blanchefort, a nobleman from a Cathar family, became fourth Grand Master of the Knights Templar. The Cathars were a gnostic sect, also known as the Albigensians, a name derived from the town of Albi in southern France where an ecclesiastical council condemned them for heresy in 1165.

The ancestral home of Bertrand de Blanchefort was situated on a mountain peak a few miles away from Rennes-le-Chateau, where, it is

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alleged, the Templar treasure is buried. We can date the Templars' seeming descent into paganism from the ascension of Bertrand de Blanchefort to the position of Grand Master in 1153.

The Cathars held the gnostic doctrines that Freemasonry would embrace 500 years hence. For example, the Cathars replaced salvation by "faith" with salvation through "knowledge." They received their gnostic doctrines from the Jews, who preserved ancient esoterica in their *Cabala*. And they practiced religious tolerance, as does Freemasonry.

Anti-Procreation

The practices of the Cathars reflected their dogmas. In seeking knowledge they practiced meditation. They were also strict vegetarians, although the eating of fish was allowed. They held the doctrine of reincarnation and recognized the feminine principle in religion. To control their population growth, their priesthood frowned upon any type of sexual union that would result in childbirth. Hence, they were the first known population controllers, experimenting with various methods of birth control, including abortion. Sex for procreation was tolerated only for sustaining their race. Realizing that the lower elements in their society would not be able to eliminate their animal drives entirely, the Cathar priesthood introduced the practice of homosexuality and unnatural acts of sodomy, including intercourse with animals as a means of birth control.³⁶

The Cathars' most serious heresy however was their denial that Christ was the Son of God. They considered Him a prophet no different from any other, a mortal being. They vehemently repudiated the significance of both the crucifixion and the cross. They also denied the validity of such sacraments as baptism and the Catholic sacrament of Holy Eucharist.

A local council of the Roman Church, as we have noted, had condemned the Cathar, or Albigensian heresy in 1165. But by 1200, Rome itself had grown distinctly alarmed at the heresy of the Cathars. The Papacy charged them with "unnatural sexual practices," which was taken to mean homosexuality and bestiality. Although these charges were true, their purpose was to incite the northern nobles against them.

On January 14, 1208, one of the papal legates to southern France was murdered, but not by the Cathars. Some suggest the murder was a set-up by Rome - to create a martyr. At any rate, Rome did not hesitate to blame the Cathars. At once Pope Innocent III ordered a crusade. The heresy was to be extirpated once and for all. A bloodbath ensued,

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which went unequalled until World Wars I and II in our 20th century. Thus began the Inquisitions.

It was into these Cathar communities in southern France that the Knights Templar, founder of French Freemasonry, settled in the early and mid-1100s.

Money, Power and Politics: Solomon's Wealth

Bertrand de Blanchefort is credited with transforming the Knights Templar into the superbly efficient, well-organized, and magnificently disciplined hierarchical institution it eventually became. Under his administration, the Knights in 1156 imported to the area of Rennes-le-Chateau a contingent of German-speaking miners. According to the authors of *Holy Blood*, "Their alleged task was to work the gold mines on the slopes of the mountain of Blanchefort - gold mines that had been utterly exhausted by the Romans nearly a thousand years before."³⁷

The truth is otherwise. The German workers were not mining. Later investigations reveal they were "smelting, perhaps, melting something down, constructing something out of metal, perhaps even excavating a subterranean crypt of some sort and creating a species of depository."³⁸

The Templars: International Bankers and Power Brokers

The German workers are believed to have been digging great underground vaults in which to store the vast wealth discovered by the Templars beneath Solomon's Temple - wealth the Templars had smelted down. Almost immediately afterward, report the authors of *Holy Blood*, the Templars "created and established the institution of modern banking. By lending large sums to destitute monarchs they became the bankers for every throne in Europe.... With their network of preceptories throughout Europe and the Middle

East, they also organized, at modest interest rates, the safe and efficient transfer of money for merchant traders.... Money deposited in one city, for example, could be claimed and withdrawn in another by means of promissory notes inscribed in intricate codes. The Templars thus became the primary money changers of the age, and the Paris preceptory became the center of European finance. It is even probable that the check as we know and use it today was invented by the order. "39

No medieval institution did more for the rise of capitalism than the Templars:

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During the next hundred years the Templars became a power with international influence. They were constantly engaged in high-level diplomacy among nobles and monarchs throughout the Western world and the Holy Land.

We can turn to England for an example of how pervasive Templar influence was in Europe. So powerful was the Master of the Temple, that he was regularly called to the King's parliament and was regarded as head of all religious orders, taking precedence over all priors and abbots in the land.⁴⁰

At one point England even stored part of the crown jewels with the Templars.⁴¹ When King Richard the Lion-Hearted took his English army on a Crusade to the Holy Land, he lived with the Knights Templars at Acre in 1191. In June 1215, when King John signed the Magna Carta, a document constituting a fundamental guarantee of rights and privileges, the master of the Knights Templar stood by.

On almost every political level the Templars acted as official arbiters in disputes, and even kings submitted to their authority. So powerful had they become that they could make or depose monarchs at will.

The Fall of Jerusalem: Plot or Happenstance?

Within seven decades of their founding, instead of being the protector of Sion's Merovingian "King of Jerusalem" cult, the Templars began to neglect that role. While attaining prosperity and notoriety in Europe, they permitted the situation in the Holy Land to deteriorate seriously. The Order of Sion, for which the Knights had taken a blood oath to defend and obey, was weakened. The authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* tell the story:

In 1185 King Baudouin W of Jerusalem died. In the dynastic squabble that followed, Gerard de Ridefort, grand master of the Temple, betrayed an oath made to the dead monarch and thereby brought the European community in Palestine to the brink of civil war. Nor was this Ridefort's only questionable action. His cavalier attitude toward the Saracens precipitated the rupture of a long-standing truce and provoked a new cycle of hostilities. Then, in July 1187, Ridefort led his knights, along with the rest of the Christian army, into a rash, misconceived, and as it transpired, disastrous battle at Hattin. The Christian forces were virtually annihilated; and two months later Jerusalem itself, captured nearly a century before, was again in Saracen hands.⁴²

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Apparently the abandonment of Jerusalem was planned, for after obtaining the 24 hoards of wealth beneath Solomon's Temple and transporting it to secret underground vaults in southern France, the Templars' loyalty to the Order of Sion and its Merovingian kings turned to animosity. Perhaps the Knights viewed the Order of Sion as a rival to be eliminated.

The "Cutting of the Elm" at Gisors by the Founders of Two Modern Freemasonries

A text in the *Dossiers secret* from the Priory of Sion parchments found at Rennes-le-Chateau does suggest that the Knights were planning the destruction of the Order of Sion. As the *Holy Grail* investigators

state, "It speaks not of Gerard's impetuosity or ineptitude, but of his 'treason' - a very harsh word indeed. What constituted this 'treason' is not explained. But as a result of it the 'initiates' of Sion are said to have returned en masse to France - presumably to Orleans [in northern France]."⁴³

Gerard de Ridefort's "treason" of 1187, whatever it was, resulted in the loss of Jerusalem, and precipitated a disastrous rift between the Order of Sion and the Knights Templar. According to the *Dossiers secret*, the following year witnessed a decisive turning point in the affairs of both orders. In 1188 a formal separation occurred when the Order of Sion, which had created the Knights Templar, washed its hands of its celebrated protégé. This rupture is recorded in the *Dossiers secret* as a ritual or ceremony of some sort, and is referred to as the "cutting of the elm." The event took place at Gisors, a city close to the coast of northern France, and under the control of the English monarchy.

The Priory documents cloak in allegory and symbology what happened at Gisors. Some sort of bloody battle between King Henry II of England and King Philippe II of France, however, did occur there in 1188. Apparently, at the end of the battle a truce was made, and a huge elm tree was cut down as a symbol of that truce. The *Holy Blood* authors suggest that both the Knights Templar and the Order of Sion were involved in the conflict. The "cutting of the elm" was therefore symbolic of their division and truce as well. Their truce, as we shall see, apparently was to allow each to operate independently of the other.

At Gisors, when the King of England took sides with Sion, London became its new protector. From 1188 on, the Order of Sion remained headquartered in northern France under its English protectors, while the Knights Templars remained headquartered at Rennes-le-Chateau

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in southern France, where their wealth is alleged to have been hidden. Sion would eventually give birth to Rosicrucianism and English Freemasonry as we know it today. From the Knights Templar would emerge its revolutionary offspring - French Freemasonry.

Sion and England

Following the battle at Gisors, the Order of Sion underwent a major administrative restructuring of its own, changing its name to the Priory of Sion, and selecting as its first Grand Master, Jean de Gisors, a vassal of the King of England. The Grand Master also possessed property in England."

The Priory of Sion went by another name as well - "Ormus." Secret societies are known to change names for the purpose of concealment when embarking on some clandestine activity. The Priory of Sion was planning such an activity. Although Sion had agreed to permit the Templars to operate independently, Sion did not intend to leave the Templars their wealth. Instead her initiates prepared to penetrate their adversary's Order for the purpose of reclaiming Solomon's wealth.

Cult Elements of Sion

The word *Ormus* contained within its spelling the history of Sion. Its symbol was shaped like a capital M. Within the frame of the M were four letters - OR and US - which together with the M spell "Ormus." These letters combine a number of other key words and symbols important to Sion. "*Ours* means 'bear' in French. *Ursus*, or echo in Latin, suggested, as subsequently became apparent, Dagobert II and the Merovingian dynasty. *Orme* is French for 'elm.' Or, of course, is 'gold.' And the M that forms the frame enclosing the other letters is not only an M but also the astrological sign for Virgo - connoting, in the language of medieval iconography, Notre Dame"⁴⁵ - which in France is not commemorative of the Virgin Mary, but of Mary Magdalene.

The name *Ormus* also represents Sion's religion. Ormus was the name of an Egyptian sage and mystic who was supposedly converted to Christianity in 46 A.D. In reality he was a gnostic adept of Alexandria, blending Christianity with Masdaim, which was the Greek-Roman form of Zoroastrianism. Zoroastrianism was a modification of Brahmanism (now Hinduism) at a time when Buddhism was a reformation of the

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same. As was common practice in the eastern mystery religions, the Priory of Sion often used mind-expanding drugs in their ceremonies.

The Priory of Sion set out to emulate the Knights Templar by using the religion of the Egyptian, Ormus. Ormus and his initiates had taken the red cross as their identifying symbol four centuries before Merovee (founder of the Merovingian Holy Grail dynasty) was born with the red cross birthmark above his heart. The Knights Templar adopted Merovee's red cross six centuries later. To emulate the Templars, the Priory of Sion took the red cross of Ormus as its own emblem, then adopted the title *l'Ordre de la Rose-Croix Veritas*, which means "The Order of the mie Red Cross." This additional name was added at the behest of Sion's Grand Master, Jean de Gisors.⁴⁶ Thus, Jean de Gisors is considered the founder of the Rose-Croix, or Rosicrucians.

At that time, Sion adopted the "eye" of the Egyptian god Osiris as its symbol. The same "eye" is known as the "third eye" of knowledge in the Hindu religion, which was adopted by the Templars. In Freemason~ it is known as the "All-Seeing Eye."

With so many similarities to the Knights Templar, the Priory of Sion had no difficulty penetrating their adversary's ranks.

Satanism and "Sacramental" Drugs in Secret Societies: The Templars Embrace the Devil and Drugs

Following their schism from the Order of Sion at Gisors, the Knights Templar plunged into Satanism. They had encountered eastern mysticism in part from their stay in the Holy Land, and partially through integrating with the Cathars. From the Cathars they had imbibed the secret doctrines of gnosticism.

As in the Priory of Sion rituals, drugs had an important role in Templar rituals. The *Holy Blood* authors tell us that the Knights acquired their knowledge of drugs from their close association with the "Hashishim, or Assassins [Medieval Mafia], the famous sect of militant and often fanatical adepts who were Islam's equivalent of the Templars. The Hashishim paid tribute to the Temple and were rumored to be in its employ."⁴⁷

The founder of the Hashishim was a Persian by the name of Hasan Saba. The drug "hashish" and the name "assassin" are both derived from Hashishim. Before performing an assassination, Hasan's adepts took this addictive drug to give them courage. From them the Templars acquired the knowledge of manufacturing hashish and using it for their

own wounded in battle - eventually incorporating its use into their pagan rituals.

The Templars were also well-versed in Hindu doctrine. They practiced Yoga to reach an altered state of consciousness to open the "third eye." This was known as white magic. When they practiced black magic they reached the same altered state of consciousness more rapidly through the use of mind-expanding drugs.⁴⁸

Drug use by both the Templars and the Sionists was carried into the degenerate lodges of both Freemasonries. In future chapters and in volume three of *Scarlet and the Beast*, we shall learn how our modern drug traffic flows through, and is protected by these sub-lodges.

As the Templars descended deeper into drugs and witchcraft they saw Jesus Christ as their enemy and began to hate the Catholic Church. Gradually they abandoned Catholicism, becoming worshipers of the Baphomet, a pagan symbol of Satan pictured as a goat head within an upside-down star. The Templars also adopted the Satanic symbol of the skull and crossbones, which symbol of death would follow them throughout their migrations, even to the city where they are presently headquartered. The use of the skull and crossbones persisted in Freemasonry, where it became the symbol of the Master Mason until after World War II. It was dropped because Hitler used it as an emblem for his SS.⁴⁹

According to the gnostic dualism of Templar doctrine, God had two sons - Jesus and Satan. Jesus was the younger brother. From their Catholicism, the Templars understood Jesus was good and Satan was evil. Yet, they taught that "'The elder son of God, Satanael or Lucifer alone has a right to the homage of mortals; Jesus his younger brother does not deserve this honour."⁵⁰ Perhaps this doctrine developed because of the animosity of the Templars toward the Merovingians, the so-called offspring of Jesus and Mary Magdalene.

The Templars' most fervent worship was addressed to this god of evil, who alone could enrich them,

and indeed he had. No doubt they understood the Lucifer of eastern myths, of whom in the 1930s British author Warren Weston wrote in *Father of Lies*:

In his conceit, he pretends to have inspired in man all the inventions of the human reason. "He is Prometheus, the friend of men, who gave them fire, taught them all the crafts, showed them the rich ore and precious stones buried in the earth, and so forth. It is for these countless benefactions conferred on humanity that the jealous spirits who claim to be true gods

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have combined against him and wronged him. He is [to the pagan] the brightest angel unjustly cast out of heaven, Lucifer, son of the morning."⁵¹

Destruction of the Knights Templar

If the Priory of Sion knew of the riches beneath the Temple Mount at Jerusalem, and was aware that the Templars had found them, as the authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* suggest, the "treason" of the Knights may have been that they absconded with the treasure. Sion, now devoid of funds and unprotected, was compelled to find and retrieve Solomon's vast wealth if she was to further her cause of world dominion.

Within two generations after the Priory of Sion and the Templars parted company at Gisors in 1188, European royalty was once again Merovingian through intermarriage. Yet, Sion's monarchs, instead of holding the gold from beneath Solomon's Temple were borrowing it. More and more they found themselves financially indebted to their own Templar creation.

A Secret Intelligence Network

King Philip the Fair of France (Philip *W*) was one of the Merovingian beggar monarchs. History tells us that at the turn of the 14th century he became alarmed at Templar power and coveted their wealth. He decided to act. What ensued was the immediate, and almost perfectly accomplished destruction of their order. So swift was the collapse of the Templars, it seems doubtful to have been the work of a single monarch. Yet it was nearly impossible for other kings to have assisted Philip. The Templars dominated royal courts throughout Europe and England. They themselves were well-seasoned subversives, operating an intelligence network second to none, with spies everywhere.

Yet, in an atmosphere of unequalled secrecy King Philip completely destroyed the Templars. We must therefore assume that he had a superior intelligence force which history does not record. For Philip to have accomplished what he did necessitated, at the least, the assistance of a society equal in secrecy and subversion to the Templars - one that had the same symbols, that knew their grips and passwords - to infiltrate their ranks. This could only have been the Priory of Sion.

There are certain Priory documents that imply Sion oversaw the demise of the Templars. Although the authors of *Holy Blood* do not

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commit themselves to this hypothesis, they make a statement which can be so interpreted. They report that "after the formal separation in 1188, Sion did in fact continue to exercise some clandestine control over Temple affairs."⁵² This "clandestine control" could have been subversive, exercised by infiltrators, spies, and double agents - not necessarily that of accomplices.

The Kidnapping and Death of a Pope

King Philip realized the Vatican had to be brought into the intrigue. The Knights Templar, regardless of its blasphemy, was still an arm of the Catholic Church. So wealthy were the Templars that no pope dare agree to their destruction - unless he realized gain for the Church, or for himself. Therefore, Philip planned

for his own pope to sit on the throne of Peter, one that would do his bidding. This meant getting rid of the existing pope.

Between 1303 and 1305 the French King, along with his ministers, engineered the kidnapping and death of Pope Boniface VIII, and quite possibly poisoned Pope Benedict XI. In 1305 the archbishop of Bordeaux ascended the papal throne, taking the name Clement V. He was King Philip's own candidate - one with Merovingian blood. The authors of *Holy Blood* inform us, "Indebted as he was to Philippe's influence, he could hardly refuse the king's demands. And these demands included the eventual suppression of the Knights Templar."⁵³

Recouping the Holy Grail

While Philip the Fair's main objective was acquiring the Templar wealth, the Priory of Sion was concerned with retrieving something more significant than Solomon's riches. The Templars apparently had in their custody the Holy Grail, supposedly the cup used at the Last Supper by Christ before His crucifixion. According to legend, Joseph of Arimathea, Mary Magdalene's alleged uncle, held the cup at the foot of the cross, filling it with Christ's Holy Blood. In her flight to southern France in 70 A.D., Mary Magdalene had carried the cup and blood with her. Some believe it was taken to the vicinity of Rennes-le-Chateau. The Priory of Sion wanted to retrieve the cup from the Templars, as well as the wealth alleged to be stored there.

Rev. Church provides a clue to the cup's location today. In *Guardians of the Grail*, he says, "Some accounts say that Joseph took the Grail

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on to England, while other accounts hold that Mary Magdalene kept the Grail in France."⁵⁴

These speculations about the Grail's whereabouts may have developed after the persecution of the Knights. Mary Magdalene, or some imposter claiming to be the Magdalene, may have taken the so-called Holy Grail to southern France in the year 70 A.D. At some later date, perhaps at the beginning of the 14th century, it was removed by someone, or some institution, and taken to England. If the Priory of Sion was that institution, it would naturally hide its action behind the "Joseph of Arimathea" allegory. Therefore, both legends would have some basis in truth.

A Sudden, Swift and Lethal Blow

King Philip, as a Merovingian attempting to acquire the Templar wealth, most certainly solicited help from the Priory of Sion, which had its own motives for assisting him. With such superior assistance he planned his moves carefully. The *Holy Blood* authors inform us that "A list of charges was compiled, partly from the king's spies [possibly Sionist] who had infiltrated the order, partly from the voluntary confession of an alleged renegade Templar. Armed with these accusations, Philippe could at last move; and when he delivered his blow, it was sudden, swift, efficient, and lethal."⁵⁵

Before the king took action against the Templars in 1307, the Priory of Sion made one of the most debilitating moves in intelligence operations, one that polarized the Knights Templar. In 1306, the Priory of Sion lifted its veil, exposing its true identity by dropping the cover "Ormus." The Knights were confounded when suddenly they realized their persecutors were not the King and Pope, but rather, their century-old enemy. How many from the Priory of Sion had infiltrated their ranks was impossible for the Templars to know. To fight would be futile.

Conventional History Perplexed

Conventional history is perplexed by the Knights' failure to offer resistance. A revisionist perspective, however, can account for their sudden collapse: they were psychologically and militarily unprepared against their foes. The authors of *Holy Blood* describe it this way: "In a security operation worthy of the SS or Gestapo, the king issued sealed and secret orders to his seneschals throughout the country. These

orders were to be opened everywhere simultaneously and implemented at once. At dawn on Friday, October 13, 1307, all Templars in France were to be seized and placed under arrest by the king's men, their preceptories placed under royal sequestration, their goods confiscated."⁵⁶

Friday the 13th

"Friday-the-13th" has since entered the culture as a "bad omen" day. The Priory of Sion did not in ignorance choose Friday-the-13th for their attack upon the Templars. Well aware of the significance the Templars placed on the esoteric value of this number (its Order contained 13 degrees), the Priory must have realized the debilitating effect an attack on this day would have. King Philip, on the other hand, was probably less discerning. All he wanted was the Templars' immense wealth, which eluded him. It was never found, which is strange indeed, for in Paris was the Templars' central bank for all Europe. The preceptory there would have stored the largest cache of gold, second only to that which was allegedly hidden at Rennes-le-Chateau.

Another Double-Cross?

Had the Priory of Sion double-crossed King Philip, too? Circumstantial evidence supports this conclusion. For instance, throughout the period of this intrigue, Guillaume Pidoye - one of the king's men and guardian and administrator of the Templar goods at the Paris preceptory after the arrest of the Templars - was also a colleague of Guillaume de Gisors, the Grand Master of Sion. If Pidoye was himself a Sionist, which seems to have been the case, he would certainly have been more loyal to his Grand Master than to the King.

The *Holy Blood* authors also suggest that Pidoye acted as a "double agent," warning the Templars of their impending arrest at the Paris preceptory. This would appear to have been an act of treason against both the king and Sion. According to legend, sometime before Friday-the-13th, the treasury in the preceptory, together with almost all its documents and records, was transported to the Templar naval base at La Rochelle, and loaded into eighteen galleys, which were never heard of again.

Why would Pidoye warn the Templars? It is unlikely he would warn the enemy of his Sionist Grand Master. He would more likely inform Guillaume de Gisors of the King's impending move against the Templars.

The authors of *Holy Blood* hint at another explanation when they suggest that the Grand Master of Sion "might have been partially responsible for...the unexplained disappearance of its treasure."⁵⁷

Alerting the Templars would then be part of an intricately woven plan. Pidoye may not have been a "double agent" as has been suggested, but a "triple agent." Pidoye knew Sion had no means of transporting Templar gold to the coast. Nor had they any ships. Only the Knights Templar had means of transport, with a fleet at La Rochelle. If tipped off in advance, the Knights could reach the port city in time. Pidoye, as representative of the king, would feign sympathy toward the Templars, warning them of impending danger, suggesting they transport their wealth out of the country before Friday-the-13th. As a triple agent, he would then inform the Grand Master of Sion of the gold transport. The Priory in turn would instruct its protector, the English navy, to intercept and scuttle the ships after confiscating the gold. The gold would then be taken to England.

English Complicity and New Power

Although this hypothesis can never be proved, it is interesting to note that England, over the next century, rapidly became the dominant power in the old world. The wealth of the Templars could most

certainly lie at the heart of what was eventually to become the British Empire.

Another indication that the English may have assisted the Priory of Sion is the fact that the Knights Hospitaller of St. John, or the Hospitallers as they came to be known, acquired the holdings of the Templars after their 1314 persecution. The Hospitallers were the 12th century English competitors of the Knights Templars during the Crusades.⁵⁸ After the Saracens regained Jerusalem from the Crusaders in 1187, one group of Hospitallers landed on the island of Rhodes, changing its name to the Temple of St. John of Jerusalem, and the other landed on the island of Malta, changing its name to the Knights of Malta. British journalist Stephen Knight, author of *The Brotherhood* (1984), states that both orders are today English Masonic Military Orders.⁵⁹ Moreover, the authors of *The Messianic Legacy* state that the Knights of Malta are also today viewed as an ideal conduit for English Masonic intelligence gathering.⁶⁰

A third indication that the British may have assisted the Priory of Sion at La Rochelle is the fact that the Templars fled to Scotland soon after their suppression and there fought alongside King Robert Bruce, who was at war with England. Why would the Templars travel to such

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a remote place and take arms against England, unless it was related to the disappearance of their galleys at La Rochelle and the confiscation of all their holdings by the English controlled Hospitallers?

Mystery at Rennes-le-Chateau: Grail and Gold

In the seizure of the Templars, their property and wealth, that Templar stronghold, Rennes-le-Chateau, would not have been overlooked. Hidden in man-made vaults in the hills above the chateau was the Holy Grail and the alleged wealth of Solomon. Investigation into the activities at Rennes-le-Chateau reveal, however, that of all the Templars arrested, those stationed at this small hamlet in southern France went untouched, causing the *Holy Blood* investigators to suggest that Pope Clement was a double agent, working for the Templars instead of the king. But why? Had Clement not agreed to the assassination of two of his predecessors in order to obtain the throne of Peter. Why protect the Templars now?

The authors of *Holy Blood* suggest several reasons: (1) Pope Clement's family was from that area; (2) the Pope still knew many people there, even those guarding the chateau; and (3) history reveals he was slow to prosecute the Templars, although hand-picked by the king to do so.

A slightly different reading of these facts, however, offers a more plausible reason for the protection of Rennes-le-Chateau. The failure of authorities to move against such a significant stronghold might have been because the garrison was not manned by Templars. Because the Pope was a Merovingian, he would not be likely to protect guards who were Templars. What if the guards were imposters - imposters dressed like Templars, who, perhaps, were Sionist? This suggestion is not without merit, since the "Joseph of Arimathaea" legend states that the Holy Grail was taken to England.

History does not record what happened to the Templar wealth, either at the Paris depository, or at Rennes-le-Chateau. Yet we do well to listen to the claim made in 1981 by Pierre Plantard, the contemporary Grand Master of the Priory of Sion, to the authors of *The Messianic Legacy*: "The Order actually possesses the lost treasure of the Temple of Jerusalem. It will be returned to Israel when the time is right."⁶¹

One thing is certain: when the Templars were crushed, all mention of what happened to their wealth was purged from history.

Rennes-le-Chateau remains an enigma. History has forgotten the untouched Templars stationed there. Their fate remains a mystery to

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this day. Meanwhile, England rose rapidly during the next four centuries to become the most powerful and the most wealthy nation on earth. Today London is the financial center of the world. Is it because of Templar wealth?

The Curse of the Knights Templar: Occult Powers?

The year 1307 did not complete the Inquisition of the Templars. Jacques de Molay, Grand Master of the Knights Templar, was still at large. When he was captured seven years later in 1314, he was tried and burned at the stake.

The authors of *Holy Blood* describe the aftermath of Jacques de Mo. lay's execution: "As the smoke from the slow fire choked the life from his body, Jacques de Molay is said to have issued an imprecation from the flames. According to tradition he called his persecutors - Pope Clement and King Philippe - to join and account for themselves before the court of God within the year. Within a month Pope Clement was dead, supposedly from a sudden onslaught of dysentery. By the end of the year Philippe was dead as well, from causes that remain obscure to this day. There is, of course, no need to look for supernatural explanations. The Templars possessed great expertise in the use of poisons..."⁶² For that matter, we must remember, so did the Priory of Sion. They too had reason to eliminate the king, whom they double-crossed, and the pope, who knew too much.

Nevertheless, the apparent fulfillment of Jacques de Molay's curse lent credence to belief in the Templars' occult powers. Furthermore, according to legend the curse did not end there. It was to cast a pall over the French royal line far into the future.⁶³

Jacques de Molay and the "Third Degree"

The Templars would never forgive Crown and Church for their destruction. There would be a day of reckoning. To keep vivid their memory of this atrocity, the Templars who fled to Scotland adopted the legend of the death of Hiram Abif- the alleged builder of Solomon's Temple in Freemasonry - as symbolic of the destruction of their order, the loss of their wealth, and the death of their Grand Master, Jacques de Molay.⁶⁴

Today the legend of Hiram Abif is acted out during initiation into the Master Mason degree, called the 3rd degree. From then until now, when

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someone says, "He gave me the third degree," the person is unaware of using an expression which derives from the inquisition of Jacques de Molay.

The Templars Flee to Scotland

When the Templars were suppressed throughout Europe and England during the early 14th century, they fled to Scotland, which was at war with England at the time. In Scotland alone were the Templars protected. The authors of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* state that "Many English and, it would appear, French Templars found a Scottish refuge, and a sizable contingent is said to have fought at [King] Robert Bruce's side at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. According to the legend - and there is evidence to support it - the order maintained itself as a coherent body in Scotland for another four centuries."⁶⁵

The Templars and French Freemasonry: International Banking

A descendant of Robert Bruce, James Stuart VI, reigned in Scotland from 1567 until he ascended the British throne in 1603 at the request of childless Queen Elizabeth I. The Stuarts, and their ancestry, were all initiated into the Order of the Knights Templar in Scotland, bringing to London a contingent of Scottish Templars. The Knights who traveled from Scotland to reside in London purchased property there, which they still own today. A fascinating fact is that built upon this land is the financial district of London, which currently clears most international banking transactions daily.

The Bible and Sion

AS we know, during James Stuart's British reign (1603-1625), the Christian world received the first English translation of the Bible - called the King James Version (KJV). Among the conclave of scholars who presided over the translation was Robert Fludd Grand Master of the priory of Sion.⁶⁶ Interestingly, throughout the translation of the New Testament, when reference is made to Zion the spelling is found in its French form - Sion!

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Scottish Rite Masonry

During the reign of James Stuart the embryo of Scottish Rite Freemasonry began to develop in England. At that time it was called Jacobite Freemasonry in memory of Jacques de Molay. James and his descendants were all members of the Royalist Jacobite Lodges, which practiced Templar rituals. The Templars also infiltrated the "operative" or working man's lodge at York. Later its rituals became known to Masons as the York Rite.

The Templar-Stuart reign in England was short-lived. Sion once again uprooted the Templars. Robert Fludd, the first British Grand Master of Sion, was appointed for that express purpose. The Stuart expulsion was swift and complete, and as we have seen, they were exiled to France following the Glorious Revolution of 1688. The Priory of Sion then united the scattered lodges of English Freemasonry under one Grand Mother Lodge in 1717. Sion has remained in control of the British Brotherhood to this day.⁶⁷

The Scottish Templars of course returned to France with the exile of Prince Charles Edward Stuart and founded French Freemasonry in 1725. By 1755 it was known as the Scottish Rite, with 32 degrees. In France, as in Scotland, the Templars have left behind the symbols of their presence: the octagonal symbol and their number "13."

Templarism = French Freemasonry

Today French Freemasonry is Templarism. Since the Templars never retrieved their wealth from England, French Freemasonry remains financially destitute to this day. The war between the Knights Templar and the Priory of Sion, which began at Gisors with the "Cutting of the Elm" in 1188, still rages between English and French Freemasonry.

Freemasonry honors the Templars in various degrees in both the Scottish and York Rite. The Order of DeMolay in America is the secret society for sons of Masons in honor of the Templar Grand Master, Jacques de Molay. It is easy to see the ideals of the early pagan Templars in modern Masonry.

Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry confirms the evolution of Templarism into Freemasonry: "From Larmenius came the French Templars. From Aumont, the German Templars of Strict Observance. From Beaujeu, the Swedish Templars of the rite of Zinnendorf From the Protestant Templars of Scotland and the Ancient Lodge of Stirling, the Scotch Templars. From Prince Charles Edward [the Stuart King

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who fled to France when deposed in 1688] and his adherents, the Templars of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite."⁶⁸

Sion and English Freemasonry

We have followed the Templars from the "Cutting of the Elm" at Gisors in 1188 to the creation of French Freemasonry in 1725. Now we will return to Gisors and trace the activity of the Order of Sion to its creation of English Freemasonry.

After the "Cutting of the Elm" in 1188, while the Templars were developing their Order into an international banking institution, the Order of Sion modified its name to the Prieure de (Priory of) Sion. To

conceal more deeply the name "Sion," the Priory took the name "Ormus," also adopting the title *l'Ordre de la Rose-Croix Veritas*, or The Order of the True Red Cross. This additional name was added at the behest of the Priory's first Grand Master Jean de Gisors. It was he who founded the *Rose-Croix*, or *Rosicrucianism*.

Rosicrucianism

Four centuries later another Grand Master of Sion, Johann Valentin Andrea (GM 1637-1654), popularized the Rose-Croix as Rosicrucianism in the legend of Christian Rosenkreuz - with his famous *Chemical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreuz*. According to this legend, Rosenkreuz founded Rosicrucianism near the time that the Priory of Sion, Pope Clement V, and King Philip the Fair persecuted the Templars. The Grand Master of the Priory of Sion at that time was Guillaume de Gisors, the same Grand Master who assisted in the confiscation of the Templar wealth. He is credited by Andrea with organizing the Rosicrucians into a type of Hermetic Freemasonry. He probably is the fictitious model for the Christian Rosenkreuz.

Satan versus Jesus

We have discussed many of the pagan elements of Rosicrucianism in the Introduction, but now will return to one in particular that illustrates the similarity of doctrine held by the Templars and the Rosicrucians: a gnostic belief in a dualistic universe.

As noted before, the Rosicrucian-Freemason Gustav Carl Jung remarked that the "[Christian] cross and [Rosicrucian] rose represent

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the Rosicrucian problem of opposites, that is the Christian and Dionysian elements...." In his explanation of the meaning of the cross and rose intertwined in the Rosicrucian emblem, Jung confirms the Rosicrucian belief that Satan has the same redemptive qualities as does Jesus Christ - the same belief held by the Rosicrucians' gnostic adversaries - the Templars. The name *Christian Rosenkreuz* (Christian rose-cross or snake-cross) itself illustrates the Rosicrucian belief in dualism. And the Rose-Croix is the red cross of Satan - a blasphemous insult to the cross of Christ.

Protestants and Rosicrucianism

As we have seen, many Protestants joined the Rosicrucian movement in order to fight the Catholic Church - which they viewed as a common enemy. The Reformation embodied by these Protestants, however, was a "reformation" in name only, for they were spiritually dead, having drunk a deceptive and deadly mix of Christianity and paganism.

Again Scripture prophesies this period of church history in the book of Revelation. The period of the Reformation, according to Clarence Larkin, is signified by the Church at Sardis. The word Sardis means *those escaped*.⁶⁹ These Christians were escaping the Thyatira Church age, in other words Roman Catholicism. Jesus, through the apostle John, speaks to their weakened condition in Revelation 3:1-3:

I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent.

Rosicrucians, having recruited the support of Scripturally weak Protestants, achieved their political goals with the Glorious Revolution of England by planting the seeds of revolutionary thought in the Masonic Lodges. The Rosicrucians expanded their secret society through the operative masonic guilds of Protestant England.

Founder of English Freemasonry

Thus we can see how the Priory of Sion, via the Rosicrucians, founded English Freemasonry.

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Since both streams of Freemasonry were born in London, we again see both English and French Masonry commemorating Rosicrucianism in their Masonic rituals. *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* lists the Rosicrucian degrees in various rites of Masonry: "The Seventh Degree of the French Rite. The Seventh Degree of the Philalethes. The Eighth degree of the Mother Lodge of the Philosophic Scottish Rite. The Twelfth degree of the Elect of Truth. The Eighteenth Degree of the Mother Scottish Lodge of Marseilles. The Eighteenth Degree of the Rite of Heredom, or of Perfection."⁷⁰

We will now turn to the cause of the first Masonic revolution called the Glorious Revolution of 1688 in England, which was a civil war between Sion and the Templars.

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