

Sidebars to “The Great Scandal” by Gregory S Paul

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Exodus 15 –

The Lord is a man of war.

Deuteronomy 7, God’s orders to the Israelites on how to conquer and cleanse all of Canaan –

Thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them, thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor show mercy unto them. And thou shalt consume all the people which the Lord thy God shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them... For they will turn away thy son from following me... so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly... the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are on the face of the earth.

Hitler on his invasion of the USSR –

This is a war of annihilation. If we do grasp this, we shall still beat the enemy, but thirty years later we shall again have to fight the communist foe.

All the necessary measures -- shooting, exiling, etc. -- we shall take and we can take anyway. The order of the day is first: conquer, second: rule, third: exploit.

Operational guidelines for the invasion –

The Jewish-Bolshevik intelligentsia, the “oppressor” of the people up to now, must be eliminated.

Himmler discussing the Holocaust –

But as far as the children are concerned, allow me to repeat what I said at the outset: namely that in my view, we are not justified in allowing hate filled avengers to grow up so that our children [and] grandchildren are obliged to contend with them.

Matthew 34 –

Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

Martin Luther –

Whoever wishes to be a Christian, let him pluck out the eyes of his reason.

Luther's *On The Jews and Their Lies*, a sample –

But since I learned that these miserable and accursed people to lure themselves even to us... I have published this little book... Our Lord calls them a "brood of vipers"... Therefore the blind Jews are truly stupid fools... wherever they have their synagogues, nothing is found but a den of devils in which sheer self-glory, conceit, lies, blasphemy, and defaming of God and men are practiced most maliciously... they are nothing but thieves and robbers who daily eat no morsel and wear no thread of clothing which they have not stolen and pilfered from us by means of their accursed usury... Did I not tell you earlier that a Jew is such a noble, precious jewel that God and all the angels dance when he farts?... we must avoid confirming them in their wanton lying, slandering, cursing and defaming. Nor dare we make ourselves partners in their devilish ranting and raving by shielding and protecting them, by giving them food, drink and shelter, or by other neighbourly acts... gentle mercy will only tend to make them worse and worse, while sharp mercy will reform them but little. Therefore, in any case, away with them! ... their synagogues must be burned down... their prayer books, their Talmudic writings, also the entire Bible – be taken from them... they be forbidden... to pray, to teach publicly... They must be driven from our country... May Christ, our dear Lord, convert them mercifully and preserve us steadfastly and immovably in the knowledge of him, which is eternal life. Amen.

From leading Protestant Bishop Sasse's forward to a book of Luther's anti-Semitic commentaries after Kristallnacht –

On Nov. 10, 1938, on Luther's birthday, the synagogues are burning in Germany. The German people ought to heed these words of the greatest anti-Semite of his time, the warner of his people against the Jews.

Title of a later brochure by Sasse –

Martin Luther and the Jews: Do Away with Them!

Der Sturmer publisher Streicher during the Nuremberg trial –

Anti-Semitic publications have existed in Germany for centuries. A book I had, written by Dr. Martin Luther was, for instance, confiscated. Dr. Martin Luther would very probably sit in my place in the defendants' dock today, if this book had been taken into consideration by the prosecution. In this book *The Jews and Their Lies*, Dr. Martin Luther writes that the Jews are a serpent's brood and one should burn down their synagogues and destroy them.

Protestant Volkist theologian Wilhelm Stapel in 1919 –

The German Volk is not an idea of humanity but an idea of God's.

Official proclamation by Protestant Church leaders of Anhalt, Lubeck, Mecklenburg, Nassau-Hesse, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, and Thuringia, 1941 –

From the crucifixion of Christ to the present day, the Jews have fought Christianity or misused and falsified it in order to reach their own selfish goals. By Christian baptism nothing is altered in regard to a Jew's racial separateness, his national being, and his

biological nature. A German Evangelical church has to care for and further the religious life of German fellow countrymen; racial Jewish Christians have no place of rights in it.

From *La Civiltà Cattolica* (primary Vatican publication) –

1880 –

Oh how wrong and deluded are those who think that Judaism is just a religion, like Catholicism, Paganism, Protestantism, and not in fact a race, a people, a nation!

1893 –

[The Jewish nation] does not work, but traffics in the property and the work of others, it does not produce, but lives and grows fat with the products of the arts and industry of the nations that give it refuge. It is the giant octopus that with its oversized tentacles envelops everything. It has its stomach in the banks... and its suction cups everywhere: in contracts and monopolies, in credits unions and banks, in shipping and in the railroads, in the town treasuries and in state finance. It represents the kingdom of capital... the aristocracy of gold... It reigns unopposed.

1897 –

The Jew remains always in every place immutably a Jew. His nationality is not in the soil where he is born, not in the language that he speaks, but in his seed.

1922 –

The world is sick... Everywhere peoples are in the grip of inexplicable convulsions. Who is responsible? The Synagogue.

1936 (after passage of the Nuremberg Laws) –

[Jews are] uniquely endowed with the qualities of parasites and destroyers.

1937 –

... an obvious fact that the Jews are a disruptive element because of their dominating spirit and their revolutionary tendency. Judaism is... a foreign body that irritates and provokes the reactions of the organism it has contaminated.

1938 –

...the Jews continual persecution of Christians, particularly the Catholic Church, and the alliance with Freemasons, socialists, and other anti-Christians groups.

Pius IX encyclical –

For revolution, even against a government which practices injustice and exemplifies a tyranny, is not permitted.

Leo XIII encyclical –

To cast aside obedience and by popular violence to incite revolt, is therefore treason, not against man only, but against God.

Oath required of German bishops by the Nazi-Vatican concordant –

In the performance of my spiritual office and in my solicitude for the welfare and the interest of the German Reich, I will endeavour to avoid all detrimental acts which might endanger it. (Note: since Hitler was the Reich the oath was effectively to him.)

Benedictine Galen's opinion on the Weimer principle of power from the people –

The power of government has its source not in the people but in God. Article 1 is [therefore] misleading and untrue; it robs God of the honour to which he is entitled as the one true authority – such action might rightly be called sacrilegious.

Mein Kampf

The volkish minded man, in particular, has the sacred duty, each in his own denomination, of making people stop just talking about God's will, and actually fulfil God's will, and not let God's word be desecrated. For God's will gave men their form, their essence and their abilities. Anyone who destroys His work is declaring war on the Lord's creation, the divine will.

The task of preserving and advancing the highest humanity, given to this earth by the benevolence of the Almighty, seems a truly high mission.

Human culture and civilization on this continent are inseparably bound up with the presence of the Aryan. If he dies out or declines, the dark veils of an age without culture will again descend upon this globe. The undermining of the existence of human culture by the destruction of its bearer seems in the eyes of a volkish philosophy the most execrable crime. Anyone who dares lay hands on the highest image of the Lord commits sacrilege against the benevolent creator of this miracle and contributes to the explosion from paradise.

The Germanic inhabitant of the American continent, who has remained racially pure and unmixed, rose to be master of the continent; he will remain the master as long as he does not fall a victim to defilement of the blood. The result of all racial crossing is therefore in brief always the following: (a) Lowering of the level of the higher race; (b) Physical and intellectual regression and hence the beginning of a slowly but surely progressing illness. To bring about such a development is, then, nothing else but to sin against the will of the Eternal Creator.

It is a sin against the will of the Eternal Creator if His most gifted beings by the hundreds and hundreds of thousands are allowed to degenerate in the present proletarian morass.

Peoples which bastardize themselves, or let themselves be bastardized, sin against the will of eternal Providence.

If our churches also sin [by presiding over interracial marriages] against the image of the Lord, whose importance they still highly emphasize, it is entirely because of the line of their present activity which speaks of the spirit and lets its bearer, the man, degenerate into a depraved proletarian.

[Would not an societal admonition] finally put to an end to the constant and continuous original sin of racial poisoning, and to give the Almighty Creator beings such as He Himself created?

A volkish state must therefore begin by raising marriage from the level of a continuous defilement of the race, and give it the consecration of an institution which is called upon to produce images of the Lord and not monstrosities halfway between man and ape.

What we must fight for is to safeguard the existence and reproduction of our race and our people, the sustenance of our children and the purity of our blood, the freedom and independence of the fatherland, so that our people may mature for the fulfilment of the mission allotted it by the creator of the universe.

Then, from the child's story-book to the last newspaper in the country, and every theatre and cinema, every pillar where placards are posted and every free space on the hoardings should be utilized in the service of this one great mission, until the faint hearted cry, "Lord, deliver us," which our patriotic associations send up to Heaven today would be transformed into an ardent prayer: 'Almighty God, bless our arms when the hour comes.

His [the Jew's] life is entirely only of this world, and his spirit is inwardly as alien to true Christianity as his nature two thousand years previous was to the great founder of the new doctrine. Of course the latter made no secret of his attitude toward the Jewish people, and when necessary he even took his whip to drive from the temple of the Lord this adversary of all humanity.... In return Christ was nailed to the cross.

At times of greatest distress, fury against him [the Jew] finally breaks out, and the plundered and ruined masses begin to defend themselves against the scourge of God.

They [German leaders who collaborated with Jews] made a pact with the devil and landed in hell.

And so he [the Jew] advances on his fatal road until another force comes forth to oppose him, and in a mighty struggle hurls the heaven-stormer back to Lucifer.

With Satanic joy in his face, the black-haired Jewish youth lurks in wait for the unsuspecting girl whom he defiles with his blood.

Religion is ridiculed [by Jews], ethics and morality represented as outmoded.

Parallel to the training of the body a struggle against the poisoning of the soul must begin. Our whole public life today is like a hothouse for sexual ideas and simulations. Just look at the bill of fare served up in our movies, vaudeville and theatres, and you will hardly be able to deny that this is not the right kind of food, particularly for youth... Theatre, art, literature, cinema, press, posters and window displays must be cleansed of all manifestations of our rotting world placed in the service of a moral, political, and cultural idea.

The great masses of people do not consist of philosophers; precisely for the masses, faith is often the sole foundation for a moral attitude.

For how shall we fill people with blind faith in the correctness of [Nazi] doctrine?... Here, too, we can learn by the example of the Catholic Church. Though its doctrinal edifice... comes into collision with exact science and research, it is none the less unwilling to sacrifice so much as one little syllable of its doctrines.

We Germans, by God, have never lacked scientific education.

In any case the Jew reached his desired goal: Catholics and Protestants wage a merry war with one another, and the mortal enemy of Aryan humanity and all Christendom laughs up his sleeve.

[Hitler hopes that] through compatibility on both [Protestant and Catholic] sides, the nation is given a future which by its greatness would gradually have a conciliatory effect in this province as elsewhere.

It is, therefore, necessary that the National Socialist movement be recognized and established in the eyes of all as the champion of a definite political purpose. Whatever heaven has in store for us, let men recognize us by our very visor!

MK and a 1936 speech –

I am convinced that I am acting as an agent of our Almighty creator. By warding off the Jews I am fighting for the Lord's work.

Hitler writing in the 1920s –

The Bolshevization of Germany... means the complete annihilation of the entire Christian-western culture.

Hitler 1922 –

My feeling as a Christian points me to my Lord and Saviour as a fighter. It points me to the man who once in loneliness, surrounded by only a few followers, recognized these Jews for what they are and summoned men the fight against them and who, God's truth!, was greatest not as a sufferer but as a fighter. In boundless love, as a Christian and as a man, I read through the passage which tells us how the Lord rose at last in His might and seized the scourge to drive out of the temple the brood of vipers and adders. How terrific was the fight for the world against the Jewish poison. Today, after two thousand years, with deepest emotion I recognize more profoundly than ever before the fact that it was for this He had to shed His blood upon the cross. As a Christian I have no duty to allow myself to be cheated... For as a Christian I have also a duty to my own people.

Hitler –

We want to prevent our Germany from suffering, as Another did, the death upon the cross.

Hitler 1923 –

The Jews are undoubtedly a race, but not human. They cannot be human in the sense of being an image of God, the Eternal. The Jews are the image of the Devil.

Hitler 1926 in reference to the Jews –

The task which Christ began but did not finish, I will complete.

Hitler upon assuming power in 1933 –

May Almighty God take our work to his grace, give true form to our will, bless our insight, and endow us with the confidence of our Volk.

Hitler, first speech to Reichstag –

While the regime is determined to carry through the political and moral purging of our public life, it is creating and ensuring the prerequisites for a really deep inner religiosity. Benefits of a personal nature, which might arise from a compromise with atheistic organizations, could outweigh the results which become apparent through the destruction of general religious-ethical values. The national regime seeks in both Christian confessions the factors most important for the maintenance of our Volkism. The struggle against a materialistic philosophy and for the creation of a true folk community serves the interests of the German nation as well as our Christian belief.

Hitler 1933 –

I too declare that I will never join forces with the parties that destroy Christianity. If there are those who now protect a threatened Christianity, where was their Christianity in those fourteen years when they went arm and arm with atheism?

Hitler, 1933 speech –

We were convinced that the people needs and requires this faith. We have therefore undertaken the fight against the atheistic movement, and that not merely with a few theoretical declarations: we have stamped it out.

Hitler, 1936 –

I go with the certainty of a sleepwalker along the path laid out for me by Providence.

Hitler, 1934 speech –

National Socialism neither opposes the church nor is it anti-religious, but on the contrary it stands on the ground of a real Christianity.

Hitler, 1938 speech –

We will not allow mystically-minded occult folk with a passion for exploring the secrets of the world beyond.

Hitler 1941 –

I am Fuhrer of a Reich that will last for a thousand years to come. No power can shake the German Reich now. Divine Providence has willed it that I carry the fulfilment of a Germanic task.

Statement by Hitler to General Gerhart Engel in 1941 –

I am now as before a Catholic and will always remain so.

Hitler –

I learned much from the Order of the Jesuits. Until now, there has never been anything more grandiose, on the earth, than the hierarchical organization of the Catholic church. I transferred much of this organization into my own party.

Hitler's theological justification for Operation Barbarossa –

The dear God, once again, makes it like that. He suddenly casts the masses of humanity to earth and each one has to look after itself and how he gets through. One person takes something away from the other. And at the end you can only say that the stronger wins. That is after all the most sensible order of things.

Hitler, 1944 speech –

I may not be a light of the church, a pulpiteer, but deep down I am a pious man, and believe that whoever fights bravely in defence of the natural laws framed by God and never capitulates will never be deserted by the lawgiver, but will, in the end, receive the blessings of Providence.

Hitler statement to Wehrmacht soldiers in 1944 –

Providence will bestow victory on the people that has done the most to earn it. If therefore Providence grants life as the prize to those who have fought and defended most courageously, then our people will find mercy from the just arbiter who at all times gave victory to the most meritorious.

Hitler's *Table Talk*, 1940s –

Christianity is an invention of sick brains... So it's not opportune to hurl ourselves now into a struggle with the churches. The best thing is to let Christianity die a natural death... Originally, Christianity was merely an incarnation of Bolshevism the destroyer. Nevertheless, the Galilean, who later was called Christ, intended something quite different. He must be considered as a popular leader who took up His position against Jewry... For the Galilean's object was to liberate His country from Jewish oppression. He set Himself against Jewish capitalism, and that's why the Jews liquidated Him... Christ was an Aryan, and St. Paul used his doctrine to mobilize the criminal underworld and thus organize a proto-Bolshevism.

Speer on Hitler's beliefs in the 1940s –

Even after 1942 Hitler went on maintaining that he regarded the church as indispensable in political life. He would be happy, he said in one of those teatime talks at Obersalzberg, if someday a prominent churchman turned up who was suited to lead one of the churches – or if possible both the Catholic and Protestant churches reunited. He still regretted that Reich Bishop Muler was not the right man to carry of his far reaching plans. But he sharply condemned the campaign against the church, he said, to replace the church by any party ideology.

Statement commonly heard after news of the Hitler's survival of the 1945 bomb plot –

Thank God the Fuhrer is alive.

Baldur von Schirach, head of the Hitler Youth –

Who serves Hitler, who serves Germany, serves God.

Wehrmacht oath written by the military command grateful for the elimination of the Brownshirt militia via the "Night of the Long Knives" –

I swear by God this holy oath to the Fuhrer of the German Reich and the German people, Adolf Hitler.

SS oath –

I pledge to you Adolf Hitler my obedience unto death, so help me God.

Statement on soldier and camp guard belt buckles –

God is with us.

Pre-lunch invocation of German school children –

Fuhrer, my Fuhrer, bequeathed to me by the Lord.

Goebbels, 1936 –

We have a feeling that Germany has been transformed into a great house of God... where the Fuhrer as our mediator stood before the throne of the Almighty.

Goering –

God gave the saviour to the German people. We have faith, deep and unshakeable faith, that (Hitler) was sent by God to save Germany.

Hess, 1938 –

With all our strength we will endeavour to be worthy of the Fuhrer thou, O Lord, has sent us!

Himmler to SS guards –

You have a responsibility before God and Hitler for everything that is happening. I myself hate this bloody business and I have been moved to the depths of my soul. But I am obeying the highest law by doing my duty.

Streicher, 1938 –

Bring up the children to have a healthy hatred, a healthy wrath. Tell the children, “Yes indeed, Jesus whipped them and drove them out. He hated the Jews!”

Text on Nazi era German postcard –

Front: Peace on earth, good will towards men

Back: Jews get out

1935 statement by the primate of Poland –

There will be the Jewish problem as long as the Jews remain.

Easter 1933 message to millions of Protestants from the mainstream Prussian church administration concerning Hitler’s rise to power –

The risen Christ goes forth in Germany to a people to who God has spoken by means of a great turning point in history. We know that we are at one with all Protestant fellow believers in joy at the awakening of the deepest powers of our nation to a patriotic consciousness, to a true community of the Volk, and to a religious renewal... In the conviction that the renewal of the Volk and Reich can be achieved and secured only by these powers, the church knows itself bound in gratitude to the leadership of the new Germany. It is joyfully prepared to cooperate in the national and moral renewal of the people.

From Papen, who made Hitler chancellor and helped negotiate the concordat –

The Third Reich is the first world power which not only acknowledges but also puts into practice the high principles of the papacy.

From the official Nazi paper Volkischer Beobachter during concordat negotiations –

The Pope will raise no objections to Hitler’s government, since the government view that first of all order must prevail in a state that is thoroughly in keeping with Christianity. As long as the Reich Cabinet fights against Communism, the Vatican will not cause the slightest difficulty for it.

Views of the future Pius XII to Cardinal Ritter after the 1932 elections –

It is to be hoped and desired that, like the Zentrum, and the Bavarian People's Party, so too the other parties which stand on Christian principles and which now also include the National Socialist Party, now the strongest party in the Reichstag, will use every means to hold off the cultural Bolshevism of Germany, which is on the march behind the Communist Party.

Comments on Pius XI concerning the policies of the new Chancellor, Hitler –

Until recently the voice of the Roman Pope remained the only one to point out the serious dangers threatening Christian culture which has been introduced into almost all nations.

Cardinal Faulhaber's notes on the views of Pius XI on the new Chancellor –

I am pleased; he is the first statesman to have spoken out against Bolshevism.

Cardinal Faulhaber's observations about the new Chancellor –

He speaks very piously, in Konisberg, about providence and how he prays.

Comments by Cardinal Faulhaber over accepting a one party state –

The concordat as a whole is so important, for instance confessional schools that I feel that it ought not fail on this point [banning of the Zentrum].”

Official statement by Catholic Bishops on Catholics and the new regime –

The episcopate believes it can cherish the confidence that the designated general prohibitions and warnings need no longer be considered necessary. For Catholic Christians, to whom the voice of the church is sacred, it is not necessary at the present moment, to make special admonition to be loyal to the lawful government and to fulfil conscientiously the duties of citizenship, rejecting on principle all illegal or subversive behaviour.

Birthday message to Hitler from Zentrum party head Kaas as he negotiated the concordat that banned his party –

Sincere good wishes for today and assurances of unswerving *collaboration* in the great work of the creation of a Germany *united within*, socially at peace, and outwardly free. [Emphases added]

Long distance telephone query from Kaas about the state of the Zentrum party he had abandoned –

You still haven't disbanded?

Report by Papen to Berlin on the opinion in Rome –

Disbanding of the Zentrum is approved here and considered to be settled with the conclusion of the concordat.

Official statement of Zentrum upon its disbandment –

The political revolution has placed German civil life upon a completely new foundation which no longer leaves any room for a party-political activity... Therefore the Zentrum is disbanding... in agreement with Reich Chancellor Hitler [which gives] its supporters the chance to make their energies wholly available for the national front under the leadership of the Chancellor, for positive co-operation towards the stabilization of our national, social, economic and cultural conditions, and *collaboration* in the restoration of law and order. [Emphasis added]

Future Pius XII on the premature demise of the Zentrum party before finalization of the concordat –

A pity that it had to come now.

Feelings of future Pius XII on the signing of the concordat –

Something has been created by a determined use of the general situation under God's benevolent and gracious help. If it is implemented in an equally loyal way it will prove to be a blessing to the church as well as to the state, and can protect immortal souls from the infinitely many dangers which we have all faced, even yesterday, with trembling hearts.

Letter to Hitler from Cardinal Faulhaber concerning the successful concordat –

What the old parliament and parties did not accomplish in sixty years, your statesmanlike foresight has achieved in six months. For Germany's reputation in the West and in the East, and before the whole world, this handshake with the papacy - the greatest moral power of world history - is a feat of immeasurable blessing.

Comments by a Communist to a sceptical Catholic Erwin von Aretin during concordat negotiations, both were concentration camp inmates –

So where are your bishops? In the old days if a stage play was given that didn't suit them, they were always there. But now, when thousands are being murdered, no one gets up in the pulpit and breathes even a word... You'll see that the bishops want to make a concordat so that they are protected and we can all go to hell together.

Aretin's observation after signing of the concordat –

I really felt rather foolish when my Nuremberg friend grinned at me at me from a distance.

Jesuit Friedrich Muckerman on the concordat during the war –

Anyone who still fought against National Socialism as the arch-enemy of the church now came under the suspicion of being a pessimist, of opposing the supreme authority in the church; he was decried as a fanatic... these men were even blamed for sabotaging the concordant.

Comment by Cardinal Bertram to future Pius XII on possible retribution if protest extended beyond helping Catholics –

Jews can help themselves.

Comment on the same subject at about the same time by Cardinal Faulhaber –

The Jews are capable of helping themselves.

Faulhaber telegram after he survived a bomb in 1939 –

To thank divine Providence in the name of the archdiocese for the Fuhrer's fortunate escape.

Comments by Catholic Wehrmacht Bishop Franz-Justus Rarkowski in 1940 –

The German people has a good conscience and knows which people it is that before God and history bears the responsibility for this presently raging, gigantic struggle. The German people know who light-heartedly unleashed the dogs of war. Our opponents believed in the power of their money bags and the repressive force of that shameful and un-Christian Treaty of Versailles.

Bishop Meiser, head of the Bavarian Protestant Church after four years of "Church Struggle" –

Thank you God for every success which, through your grace, you have so far granted him [Hitler] for the good of our people.

Observation by Nazi Hans Frank about Hitler's early speeches –

He placed before the protection of the Almighty in the most serious and solemn exhortation the salvation of the honour of the German soldier and worker in his life-task.

The opinion of Cardinal Faulhaber after a three hour interview with Hitler in 1936 –

The Reich Chancellor undoubtedly believes in God. He recognizes Christianity as the builder of western culture.

Catholic authorities' comments on the plebiscite to withdraw Germany from the League of Nations –

In the hours of our nation's destiny the Catholics of the Berlin diocese, in unshakable love for Volk and fatherland, stand solidly behind the Fuhrer and Chancellor in his fight for the equal rights and honour of the nation, and the restoration of a just peace between the nations.

Protestant authorities on the same subject –

At this decisive hour for Volk and fatherland we greet our Fuhrer. We give thanks for the manly action and the clear word which safeguard Germany's honour. In the name of more than 2,500 Protestant pastors... we pledge loyal obedience and remembrance in prayers.

From a signed declaration of support for Hitler by Austrian bishops after the Anschluss –

Through the actions of the National Socialist Movement the danger of Godless Bolshevism, which would destroy everything, will be fended off.

Item added by Cardinal Innitzer when signing above declaration –

Heil Hitler.

Statement from Cardinal Bertram published in a Nazi newspaper after the Anschluss –

The great deed of safeguarding peace among the nations moves the German episcopate acting in the name of all the German dioceses, respectfully to extend congratulations and thanks and to order a festive ringing of bells on Sunday.

Upon becoming Pius XII in 1939 the new Pope wanted to get off to a fresh start with Hitler –

To the Illustrious Herr Adolf Hitler, Fuhrer and Chancellor of the German Reich! Here at the beginning of Our Pontificate We wish to assure you that We remain devoted to the spiritual welfare of the German people entrusted to your leadership... During the many years we spent in Germany, We did all in our Our power to establish harmonious relations between Church and State. Now that the responsibilities of Our pastoral function have increased Our opportunities, how much more ardently do We pray to reach that goal.

Call by the Catholic Bishop of Mainz on Hitler's 50th birthday –

Pray for “the Fuhrer and Chancellor, the inspirer, enlarger and protector of the Reich.

Birthday greetings from Pius XII through Cardinal Bertram starting with Hitler's 50th and continuing through 1945 –

Warmest congratulations to the Fuhrer in the name of the bishops and the dioceses in Germany with fervent prayers which the Catholics of Germany are sending to heaven on their altars.

A partly accurate statement made by a woman during the successful protest against the removal of crosses from Bavarian schools –

The Fuhrer doesn't want this, and certainly knows nothing of the removal of the crosses.

Comments by Catholic Wehrmacht Bishop Franz-Justus Rarkowski in 1940 –

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Catholic bishop of Paderborn a few days after the invasion of the USSR –

For the protection of Christianity in our Fatherland, for the rescue of the Church from the threat of anti-Christian Bolshevism.

Bishop of Eichstatt at the same time –

A crusade, a holy war for homeland and people, for faith and church, for Christ and his most holy cross.

Prayer by Catholic Bishop Galen about the invasion of the USSR the same summer he protested the euthanasia program and denounced attacks upon the Church –

[Please grant] successful defence against the Bolshevik threat to our people.

Galen's opinion in 1943 –

The war is true and just.

Galen's advice to a friend upon being drafted the same year –

Go and serve your Fatherland.

Hitler's order of the day to German troops on the Eastern Front –

God's mercy on our people and the entire world if this Barbaric enemy had been able to move his tens of thousands of tanks before we moved ours!... This enemy does not consist of soldiers, but a majority of beasts... [USSR poverty] is a result of nearly a 25-year Jewish rule that, as bolshevism, is basically similar to the general form of capitalism... With the Lord's aid you not only will bring victory but also the most essential condition for peace.

1943 comment to papal representative to Fascist Croat regime by Pius XII –

In spite of everything, no one wants to acknowledge the one, real and principal enemy of Europe; no true, communal military crusade against Bolshevism has been initiated.

Pius XII opinion on the Nazi struggle against Bolshevism –

High minded gallantry in defence of Christian culture.

Opinion of Nazi official Weizsacker about Pius XII in 1943 –

By all accounts, the Pope... has not allowed himself to be stampeded into making any demonstrative pronouncement against the removal of Jews from Rome... He [Pius] has done everything he could... not to injure the relationship between the Vatican and the German government.

Pius XI on Mussolini who negotiated the 1929 concordat –

A man sent by Providence.

The bishop of Terracina on the invasion of Ethiopia –

Today Italy is Fascist and the hearts of all Italians beat together with yours [Mussolini's].

1941 statement by Cardinal Stepinac –

God... has given us Ante Pavelic [Catholic fascist Croat dictator], and moved the leader of a friendly and allied people, Adolf Hitler, to use his victorious troops to disperse our oppressors... Glory be to God, our gratitude to Adolf Hitler and loyalty to our Poglavnik.

1942 BBC broadcast –

The worst atrocities are being committed in the environs of the archbishop of Zagreb [Stepinac]. The blood is flowing in streams. The Orthodox are being forcibly converted to Catholicism and we do not hear the archbishop's voice preaching revolt. Instead it is reported [correctly] that he is taking part in Nazi and Fascist parades.

Franco on Hitler –

Adolf Hitler, son of the Catholic, died while defending Christianity... With the palm of the martyr, God gives Hitler the laurels of Victory.

U. S. State Dept. report, 1947 (released 1984) –

The Vatican, which maintained an "apostolic" visitor in Zagreb from June 1941 until the end of the war, was aware of the killing campaign... Croatia Catholic authorities condemned the atrocities committed by the Ustashi, but remained otherwise supportive of the regime... The Vatican... is the largest single organization involved in the illegal movement of emigrants... the justification... for its participation in this illegal traffic is simply the propagation of the Faith. It is the Vatican's desire to assist any person, regardless of... political beliefs, as long as that person can prove himself to be Catholic... in those Latin America countries where the Church is a controlling or dominating factor, the Vatican has brought pressure to bear which has resulted in the... countries taking an attitude almost as favouring the entry their country of former Nazis and former Fascists... so long as they are anti-Communist.

Estrongo Nachama, Auschwitz survivor –

We called upon God, dear God, to help us. But God didn't help us.

Observation by world-renowned New Testament scholar Kittle in 1946 –

Christianity in Germany bears a greater responsibility before God than the National Socialists, the SS, and the Gestapo.