

Biblical Literature



God Evidence:

The Blessed Mother at Fatima

Fatima, Portugal 1917

Three illiterate Portuguese shepherd children are the subject of this “evidence.” In May of 1917, Lucia (10), Francisco (8) and Jacinta (6), are startled by lightening which appeared in the clear sky about noon. This was followed by an apparition of Our Lady who later identified herself as the “Lady Of the Rosary.” She asked the children to return the 13th of each month, to pray for peace and the conversion of sinners.

This apparition occurred at a pivotal point in world history. Portugal, like other countries, was becoming increasingly atheistic and anti religious. Russia, which was run by the Czar (Nicholas) was Christian, but Russia was impoverished and illiterate. Mary specifically asked for prayers for the “conversion” of Russia (at a time when it was still Christian!) and warned that a second world war would follow the first if the world did not turn to God in prayer. She also predicted that Russia would spread “errors” throughout the world (when Russia could not even feed her own people!) and be the cause for the annihilation of some countries. All of which took place with the rise of a Communist state in Russia and the Soviet Block.

The end of the apparitions was to be accompanied by a confirming sign “for all to see.” This occurred on October 13, 1917, one month prior to the Bolsheviks’

takeover of Russia. In the midst of a steady downpour, Lucia told everyone to close their umbrellas and look to the sky. At that time, the sun broke through the clouds and could be looked upon without any discomfort. It appeared to spin rainbow like colors upon the faces of the crowd and approached the earth in such a way as to cause some panic in the crowd. At the end of the 12 minute phenomenon, the crowd was astonished to find everything completely dry. The following considerations are worth noting:

- The three children's' lives were threatened. They were kidnapped by Portuguese authorities, separated and threatened with torture. Even at such young ages , separated from each other and their parents, they remained firm and showed a willingness to die under torture rather than declare the apparitions a hoax .
- Predicted the rise of Russia as a disruptive influence in the world at a time when it was not even able to feed its own people.
- Predicted the need for prayers for the “conversion” of Russia, *while Russia was decidedly “Christian,” (Russian Orthodox)*
- Predicted the name of the next Pope and the start of the second world war.
- Shortly after the consecration by Pope John-Paul II, the Berlin wall was dismantled and the Soviet Union dissolved as an official Communist state, as predicted.
- The miracle of the sun was witnessed by over 70,000 people, including journalists and skeptics.
- A number of people not at Fatima witnessed the miracle as well,

discounting theories of autosuggestion or mass hallucination.

- The Third Secret contained in a letter written by Lucia, was handed to the Pope and each succeeding Pope read it. This was completely secret until very recently. The letter predicted the assassination attempt on the life of Pope John Paul II. Miraculously, he survived this attempt which fell on May 13th (the day of the apparition!).