

Lightning bolt hit Vatican not once but TWICE hours after Pope's shock resignation

12 Feb 2013 12:58

The lightning touched the roof of St. Peter's Basilica, one of the holiest Catholic churches, hours after Benedict XVI's shock announcement

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A lightning strikes St Peter's dome at the Vatican on February 11

AFP/Getty

Lightning struck the Vatican not once but TWICE - hours after Pope

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3/2/13 11:04 PM

The spooky moment, believed by some, to be a sign from God, was caught on camera by AFP photographer Filippo Monteforte.

Today he described how he took the incredible image which has been beamed all over the world.

He said: "I took the picture from St. Peter's Square while sheltered by the columns. It was icy cold and raining sheets. When the storm started, I thought that lightning might strike the rod, so I decided it was worth seeing whether - if it DID strike - I could get the shot at exactly the right moment."

Filippo, armed with a 50mm lens, waited for more than two hours and was rewarded for his patience with not one but two bolts.

He added: "The first bolt was huge and lit up the sky, but unfortunately I missed it. I had better luck the second time, and was able to snap a couple of images of the dome illuminated by the bolt."

The lightning touched the dome of St. Peter's Basilica, one of the holiest Catholic churches, after the Pope's shock admission he lacks strength to do the job.

The Vatican stressed that no specific medical condition prompted Benedict's decision to quit - the first pontiff to do so in 600 years.

The move surprised even his closest aides, even though Benedict, 85, had made clear in the past he would step down if he became too old or infirm.

In recent years, the Pope has slowed down significantly, cutting back his foreign travel and limiting his audiences.

He now goes to and from the altar in St Peter's Basilica on a moving platform, to spare him the long walk down the aisle. Occasionally he uses a cane.

His 89-year-old brother, Georg Ratzinger, said doctors had recently advised the Pope not to take any more trans-Atlantic trips.

"His age is weighing on him," Mr Ratzinger said. "At this age my brother wants more rest."

Benedict announced his resignation in Latin during a meeting of Vatican cardinals, calling it "a decision of great importance for the life of the church."

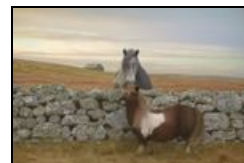
He emphasised that carrying out the duties of being pope requires "both strength of mind and body."

He told the cardinals: "I have come to the certainty that my strengths due to an advanced age are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry."



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The Vatican will hold a conclave before Easter to elect a new pope, with Benedict holding great sway over who should succeed him to lead the world's one billion Catholics.

Benedict has already hand-picked the bulk of the College of Cardinals - the princes of the church who will elect the next pope - to guarantee an equally-conservative legacy.

There are no obvious front-runners to replace him - the same situation when Benedict was elected in 2005 after the death of Pope John Paul II.

Given half of the world's Catholics live in the global south, there will once again be arguments for a pope to come from the developing world.

When Benedict was elected aged 78, he was the oldest pope chosen in nearly 300 years.

He raised the possibility of resigning if he were too old or sick to continue, when he was interviewed in 2010 for the book "Light of the World."

"If a pope clearly realises that he is no longer physically, psychologically and spiritually capable of handling the duties of his office, then he has a right, and under some circumstances, also an obligation to resign," Benedict said.

The former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger had an intimate view as Pope John Paul II, with whom he had worked closely for nearly a quarter-century, suffered through the debilitating end of his papacy.

The Vatican said immediately after his resignation that Benedict would go to Castel Gandolfo, a summer retreat south of Rome, and then would live in a cloistered monastery.

Benedict said he would serve the church for the remainder of his days "through a life dedicated to prayer."

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Pope Benedict XVI

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Thomaspj Poovathinkal

3:44 PM on 28/2/2013

-1

IF you and I and all of us believers in the Lord keep obeying his word, everything will be O.K.; It is he who is in-charge of the whole universe and he loves us all. So let us love even those who are our enemies and pray for them. This is what The Lord taught in word and deed. We need to be saviors with him to save the whole world.

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Mark Gifford

10:18 PM on 20/2/2013

0

I'm proud to be catholic! People can run down my religion, they always will. They're just running down Jesus Christ, because he is the one, that started the church. The church is two-thousand years old. History attests to this fact. Enough said!

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Rhonda Kay Knight

3:31 PM on 18/2/2013

0

I TAKE OFFENSE TO YOUR QUOTE
UNQUOTE CATHOLIC CHURCH,I AM A CATHOLIC AND I'M PROUD OF IT GOD PLAYS A ROLE IN EVERYONE'S LIFE DAILY.IF YOU FEEL THAT STRONGLY ABOUT THE CATHOLIC RELIGION,THAT'S ON YOU.BUT DON'T PREACH ABOUT SOMETHING YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IF YOUR MOTHER IS BEING HATED AND IF YOU BELIEVE IN GOD MAYBE YOU

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Man United 4-0

Norwich: Kag
bags three as
Red Devils warm
up for Real
Madrid in style



WANT TO RETHINK THE WHOLE HATE
 THING NOT VERY HOLY,WHATEVER
 HAPPEN TO YOUR MOTHER TAKE IT UP
 WITH GOD BUT DON'T JUDGE ONE'S
 RELIGION.AND NOW WHO THE HELL
 MADE YOU GOD TO CALL OUT THE
 CATHOLICS AS PEDOPHILES,THOSE KIND
 OF PEOPLE WALK AMONG US EVERYDAY
 ALONG WITH MURDERS,RAPIST,ABUSERS
 OR THEY ALL CATHOLIC?? THE HATE YOU
 CARRY AROUND IS NOT WHAT GOD
 INTENDS FOR ANYONE,YOU HATE YOU
 AND LOOKING TO LAY BLAME ANYWHERE
 YOU SEE FIT,START WITH YOURSELF
 FIRST.



Teenna Francisco

3:11 PM on 18/2/2013

0

Oh My!

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Armin Gonzalez

4:42 AM on 18/2/2013

-4

The church has and will keep on having
 difficulties, it was instatuted by God, he
 new all the evil her leaders would cause
 ,especially when the #1 king of lyers
 opposes this church, there are no
 pedaphiles in the other churches like the
 catholic, why? Easy he helps the others
 keep the status quo, as a matter of fact
 he wants more churches to spring up.
 the more the merier as far as he is
 concern anything to disrupte it. people
 that opose the church have had this hate
 ingrained into their minds 600 years ago.

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Armin Gonzalez

4:34 AM on 18/2/2013

-2

false prophet? do you think I can have a
 perssonel relation with you if you dislike

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Joseph Mason

1:56 AM on 15/2/2013

0

There was a prediction in a video presented on 20 December 2012, of a symbolic event. A photograph was shown of the dome of the church in St. Petersburg burning. It is at the 1:44 point here --

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltK8IK-Wjck>

Some details are in this article --

<http://www.greatdreams.com/cosmic/101706.htm>

The symbolism of domes is covered in this article --

<http://www.greatdreams.com/crop/2010ccs/2010ccs.htm>

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Regina Morris

5:02 PM on 14/2/2013

1

I don't think his resignation has anything to do with Masons or signs from God, I simply believe there is more to it than failing health. As an educated, critically thinking Catholic, I don't think he should have accepted the post if he didn't intend to keep it until death.

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Vailatt Antony

6:02 AM on 14/2/2013

-3

I am surprised at the pessimistic and

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negative views of a few people on the Catholic Church! Jesus Himself during His life time was never spared by people with vested interests. It is the Church of God and so no lightning or negative comments can ever destroy or put down the Church built on Peter, the rock!



Jamaal Inwood

3:48 AM on 14/2/2013

3

Aldo you idiot. You do realize there has been a masonic infiltration of the RCC right? That is why it is referred to as Satan, for Satan was prophesied to have perfidiously attack the church FROM WITHIN!

Chiesa Viva! Ciao...

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1

2

0

4.5k

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