

2022
General Conference
Special



The **Greatest**
of all **Wars - WWII**

Contents

3 Editorial

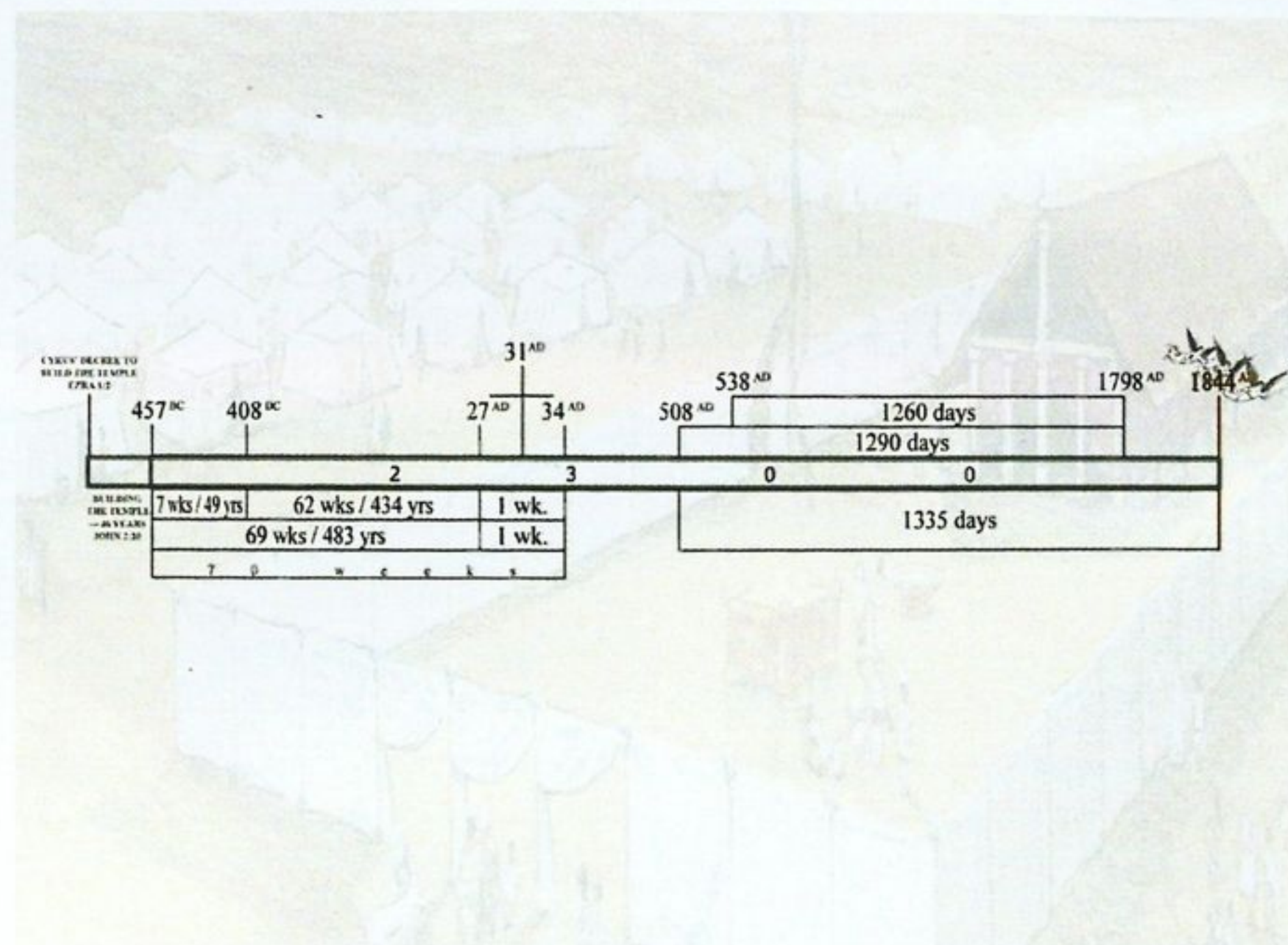
4 The Greatest of all Wars
A stupendous crisis of war. This great war is approaching with frightening speed. The signs all portend it; the great nations of the earth are preparing for it and most importantly, as we shall see, the Bible predicts it. This article will show you how to prepare for it.



8 The Woman and the Dragon
More and more Seventh-day Adventist Christians are coming to the sad realization that the professed corporate church leadership and membership have lost sight of Jesus our Lord and His holy standards. This article gets to the root of the problem and the solution.



13 Prophecy or Love?
Should the Church spend more time teaching love or Bible prophecy? Does it really matter?



14 Elijah the Prophet
The Bible predicts the coming of antitypical Elijah. Has he already come or is he to come in the future? What did Ellen White write about this.



18 The Mark of the Beast
This study shows how the United States of America will be the driving force in establishing the Sunday laws and that the 666 is not the Pope.



Running the Race



Intreat you, brethren and sisters, to labor earnestly to secure the crown of everlasting life. The reward will be worth the conflict, worth the effort. . . . In the race in which we are running, everyone may receive the reward offered—a crown of everlasting life. I want this crown; I mean by God’s help to have it. I mean to hold fast to the truth, that I may see the King in His beauty.” *HP 356.5*

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” *1 Corinthians 9:24-27.*

“Those who engaged in running the race to obtain that laurel which was considered a special honor were temperate in all things, so that their muscles, their brains, and every part of them might be in the very best condition to run. If they were not temperate in all things, they would not have that elasticity that they would have if they were. If temperate, they could run that race more successfully; they were more sure of receiving the crown.

“But notwithstanding all their temperance, all their efforts to subject themselves to a careful diet in order to be in the best condition, those who ran the earthly race only ran a venture. They might do the very best they could, and yet after all not receive the token of honor; for another might be a little in advance of them and take the prize. Only one received the prize. But in the heavenly race we can all run, and all receive the prize. There is no uncertainty, no risk, in the matter. We must put on the heavenly graces, and, with the eye directed upward to the crown of immortality, keep the Pattern ever before us. He was a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with grief.

“The humble, self-denying life of our divine Lord we are to keep constantly in view. And then as we seek to imitate Him, keeping our eye upon the mark of the prize, we can run this race with certainty, knowing that if we do the very best we can, we shall certainly secure the prize.

“Men would subject themselves to self-denial and discipline in order to run and obtain a corruptible crown, one that would perish in a day and which was only a token of honor from mortals here. But we are to run the race, at the end of which is a crown of immortality and everlasting life.

“Yes, a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory will be awarded to us as the prize when the race is run. ‘We,’ says the apostle, ‘an incorruptible.’ And if those who engaged in this race here upon the earth for a temporal crown, could be temperate in all things, cannot we, who have in view an incorruptible crown, an eternal weight of glory, and a life which measures with the life of God? When we have this great inducement before us, cannot we ‘run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith?’ *Hebrews 12:1, 2.*

“He has pointed out the way for us and marked it all along by His own footsteps. It is the path that He traveled, and we may, with Him, experience the self-denial and the suffering, and walk in this pathway imprinted by His own blood.” *CH 46.2 - 48.1*

In the interest of reaching every Truth-seeking mind, God has pointed out the way for us and marked it all along by His own footsteps. May each message in this magazine inspire us to Run the race and run it well, for a crown of Glory is waiting for each of us at the end. So let’s run! ☉

—The Editors

The **Greatest** *of all* **Wars**

Yes it is going to happen. A stupendous crisis of war. It is coming—inevitably coming as sure as night follows day; as sure as winter follows autumn. This great war is approaching with frightening speed. The signs all portend it; the great nations of the earth are preparing for it and most importantly, as we shall see, the Bible predicts it. So the only sensible thing we can do is to get ready. The crisis unfolding in Ukraine is just a sign of something much greater that will involve not just Russia and Ukraine, but the whole world.

Prepare For It

Now here is the big questions: How soon will this war break upon the world? Where will it be fought? Who will be the major antagonists? What nations will ally with which side? Will Communism, Babylon, or the UN win? And of course, the hows, the whys, and the consequences will torment many millions worldwide.

Casting a look backward, as we move forward, we gasp at the dreadful statistics of world wars I and II. There were 41 million casualties in world War I (1914-1918). A whopping 18 million dead and 23 million wounded. In World War II (1935-1945) here are some figures from Wikipedia:

“World War II was the deadliest military conflict in history in absolute terms of total casualties. Over 60

million people were killed, which was about 3% of the 1940 world population (est. 2.3 billion). Statistics of military wounded are available for the major combatants. The tables below give a detailed country-by-country count of human losses. World War II fatality statistics vary, with estimates of total deaths ranging from 50 million to more than 80 million. The higher figure of over 80 million includes deaths from war-related disease and famine. Civilians killed totaled 50 to 55 million, including 19 to 28 million from war-related disease and famine. Military deaths from all causes totaled 21 to 25 million, including deaths in captivity of about 5 million prisoners of war. Statistics on the number of military wounded are included whenever available.”

So what are we to anticipate in this next great war? Will a billion people or more die? Will there be several billion casualties? It is mind-boggling and dreadful, even to think of it.

What Does God's Prophetic Word Forewarn?

“For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them”. *Jeremiah 25:15*

Notice all the nations are involved here—world war.



As an overwhelming surprise the world (but not students of prophecy) will realize that the war is permitted by Jehovah to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their wickedness, and continual, overwhelming transgressions of the laws of God.

What Does Inspiration Say About These Times?

“We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Many of the prophecies are about to be fulfilled in quick succession. Every element of power is about to be set to work. Past history will be repeated; old controversies will arouse to new life, and peril will beset God’s people on every side. Intensity is taking hold of the human family. It is permeating everything upon the earth.... *TM* 116.2

“The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all

classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place,—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.

“The Bible, and the Bible only, gives a correct view of these things. Here are revealed the great final scenes in the history of our world, events that already are casting their shadows before the sound of their approach, causing the earth to tremble, and men’s hearts to fail them for fear.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 536, 537 (1916); *Ev* 194.3

Where Must God’s People Hide?

“Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast” Isaiah 26:20

“A noise shall come [even] to the ends of the earth; for

the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them [that are] wicked to the sword, saith the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from [one] end of the earth even unto the [other] end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground”.

Jeremiah 25:31-33

Indeed the wickedness of the world (and even of churches) gets bolder and bolder every day—terrible blasphemy and insult to the Almighty. Evolution, adulterous same sex marriages, abortions, murders, terrorisms, secret societies, witchcraft, drug abuses and violence—surely Jehovah must arise to punish the inhabitants of the earth (including the church) for their iniquity. Surely the world is ripe for the Great and Dreadful day of the Lord.

The World Will Be Punished:

“And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung”. *Zephaniah 1:17*

Students of Bible prophecy know that what the world calls World war III is really fulfilling the final portion of the prophecies of Daniel 11 with regards to World War II starring the king of the North—England and America in these end times.(See Daniel 11: 40-45 especially verse 45).

Clearer and More Specific Prophecies:

“Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city”
Zechariah 14:1-2

Who Will Win?

From this we see that all nations will be involved in this war and that Jerusalem the Holy Land will become the major center or target in this global conflict. Evidently the nations and allies will fall into two parties. Those for Jerusalem and those against Jerusalem. Significantly, the Bible foretells who will win and who will lose. The

nations—the western, English speaking nations, though having superior military armament—are to lose because the Almighty so determines.

The Beneficiary Of The War?

Who will be the beneficiary of this next huge international war? Will it be Capitalism, Communism, the United Nations, or Babylon the great of Revelation 17? Diligent students of Bible prophecies (especially Revelation 17) know that it is Babylon, the great Harlot—representation and International set up of the beast—union of state and religion. The woman represents false religion and the beast symbolizes her international dominion.

Where Are God’s People During This Time Of War?

Where are the saints during the period of the great and dreadful day of the Lord—The Loud Cry period? Does God not have a David to bring down this antitypical Goliath—the mark of the beast system? Certainly! We can only touch these prophecies lightly here.

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” *Daniel 2:44*

“The portion of Jacob is not like them; for he is the former of all things: and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: the LORD of hosts [is] his name. Thou art my battle ax [and] weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms; And with thee will I break in pieces the horse and his rider; and with thee will I break in pieces the chariot and his rider; With thee also will I break in pieces man and woman; and with thee will I break in pieces old and young; and with thee will I break in pieces the young man and the maid; I will also break in pieces with thee the shepherd and his flock; and with thee will I break in pieces the husbandman and his yoke of oxen; and with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers” *Jeremiah 51:19-23*

“And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David [shall be] as God, as the angel of the

LORD before them. And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem” *Zechariah 12: 3, 8, 9*

What Happens To Infamous Babylon?

Again the prophecies show that after one hour (the Loud Cry period) God will allow Babylon to be destroyed and the mark of the beast system dissolved.

“And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth” *Revelation 17:16-18*

“And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth” *Revelation 18:24*

Preparation And Safety Of God’s People.

How must God’s people prepare and what must they do? They must do exactly what the Word of God says below:

“Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain” *Isaiah 26:20-21*

“Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD’S anger” *Zephaniah 2:3*

“In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old” *Amos 9:9-11*

“Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen

should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?” *Joel 2:15-17*

Will the Christian nations surrender their power to the Church and, if so why? And what of the US Constitution?

And what is more, a system that will, on pain of death for nonconformity, exact a form of worship in violation of the conscience, is anything but Democracy and Christianity. Enforced religion is nothing less than an order of truckling subjects, rather than an order of voluntary disciple.

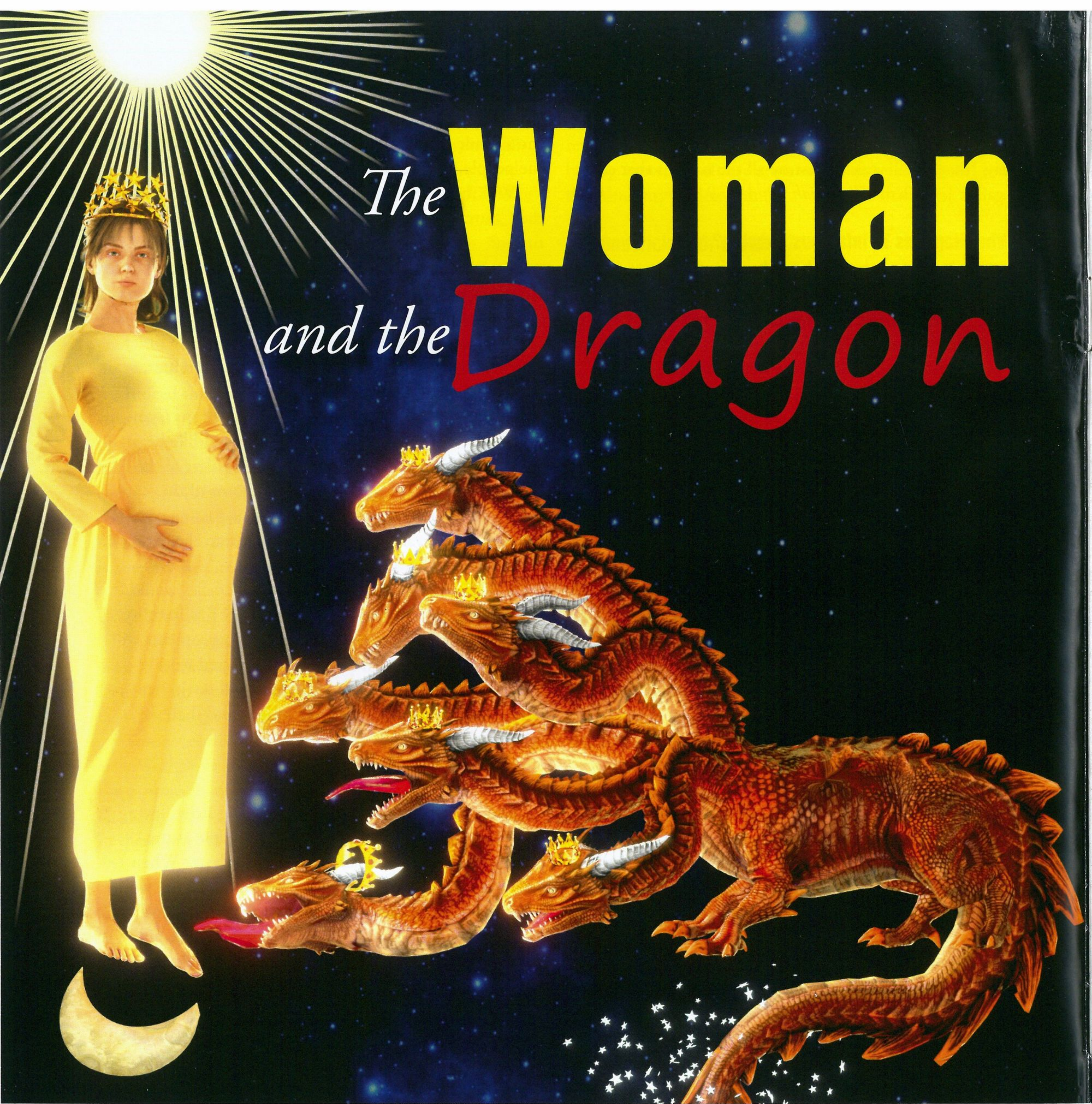
The fast falling crowned kings of the nations (symbolized by the crowned horns of the leopard-like beast) in contrast with the ascending crownless rulers of the nations (symbolized by the crownless horns of the scarlet-colored beast), show that the world is passing out of the period of royalist governments, and into the period of non-royalist governments.

A totalitarian overthrow of the democracies would endanger the continuation of nationalistic Christianity. To withstand this storm, the Christian governments will before long seat upon the beast the predicted world-queen—Babylon the Great. Then she will say in her heart: “I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.” *Rev. 18:7.*

Conclusion:

Our only safety therefore clearly lies in strict, loving obedience to God who will deliver his people as the prophets, Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Daniel tell us. When we see these things, therefore, let us not fear as the world does, but look up for our “redemption draweth nigh”.

“Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him [be] your fear, and [let] him [be] your dread. And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken. Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion. And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?” *Isaiah 8:13-15, 19-20.* ☉



The **Woman** *and the* **Dragon**

More and more Seventh-day Adventist Christians are coming to the sad realization that the professed corporate church leadership and membership have lost sight of Jesus our Lord and His holy standards. The following quotation is one of many scathing testimonies uttered by

the servant of the Lord:

“I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God. Pride, covetousness, and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of banishment

or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders.

“The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere.” Testimonies Vol 5, p. 217.

In yet another reference, Inspiration says: “The heavenly Teacher inquired: ‘what stronger delusion can beguile the mind than the pretense that you are building on the right foundation and that God accepts your works, when in reality you are working out many things according to worldly policy and are sinning against Jehovah? Oh, it is a great deception, a fascinating delusion, that takes possession of minds when men who have once known the truth, mistake the form of godliness for the spirit and power thereof; when they suppose that they are rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing, while in reality they are in need of everything.’” Testimonies Vol 8, pp. 249, 250.

The above references not only state the problem but show us what is the root or cause of our spiritual malady; it is our disregard of the “Testimonies”—the special light our loving Savior has given to guide us in these last days. Instead, we are “working out many things according to worldly policy”, not God’s standards. But what is the solution? How will the church become the mighty force for good that she should be and must be to save a dying world? How will she, in spite of the great persecution, be ready to fulfil this sacred inspired prophecy? “Clad in the armor of Christ’s righteousness, the church is to enter upon her final conflict. ‘Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners’ (Song of Solomon 6:10), she is to go forth into all the world, conquering and to conquer” Prophets and Kings p. 725.

This article is dedicated to answering this most vital question from the storehouse of all truth, the Bible and the Testimonies.

The Woman

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained

to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.” Revelation 12:1-6

We all somewhat agree that this woman of Revelation 12 is symbolical of the church (Jer. 6:2; 31:4; Great Controversy p. 381); that the dragon is symbolical of Satan (Rev. 12:9) and that the child represents Christ, who ascended on high after His resurrection. (Mark 16:19). But inasmuch as we may not agree as to whether the woman is symbolical of the old Testament church or of the New Testament, or of both, it is essential that we study to see eye to eye.

Now, the questions naturally arise, if Christ is the One Who brought forth the Christian church, then how can she be His mother? And was not Christ born at least thirty years before the Christian church came into being? Is not the egg laid before the chicken is hatched? We all know that Christ was born, not to the Christian church but to the Jewish. This being so, then how can we escape the truth that this twelve-star-crowned woman is primarily the Jewish church who travailed and gave birth to the “world’s Redeemer” in the Old Testament period?

Moreover, before the child was born, and before the Gospel of Christ came to the Church, she was clothed with the sun, and the moon stood under her feet. There is therefore not the slightest excuse for one to conclude that the woman represents the Church clothed with the Gospel of Christ. And if her sun clothing does not represent the Gospel of Christ, then what does it represent? Since she was clothed with the sun before Christ’s birth, and before the Gospel came, then her sun-clothing must be the Bible, the word of God that clothed her in the period of the prophets. The Psalmist says: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” Ps. 119:105.

What is symbolized by the moon under her feet?—The fact that the moon of the heavens reflects the light

from the sun to earth, the symbolical moon therefore being under the woman's feet, and the sun shining directly upon her, not by reflection through the moon, denotes that her channel of light, conveyance, the moon, was passing away, was no longer needed, that the sun itself, the source of her light, shining directly upon her, enveloped her with its bright rays. What could the moon then symbolize but the period before Moses, in which the Word of God did not shine directly on the people as it does today (for they had no Bible in those days), but Moses never wrote down the messages of God but verbally passed them on. (See *The Great Controversy*, p.V).

Though this twelve-star-crowned woman symbolizes something in the Old Testament period, as we have already seen, she nevertheless is seen to also symbolize something in the New Testament. This we see from the fact that after the child was born and after the Christian church came into being, the woman was given the wings of a great eagle, and was thus enabled to fly into the wilderness, there to be nourished "for a time, and times, and half a time." Taking all these points into one common whole, they positively show that the woman is symbolical of God's everliving Church for all times, and that she is His saving Truth, His true wife, the Truth that gave birth to Christ and that gives birth to all His "brethren" (His followers), "the remnant of her seed." Verse 17.

The First Defeat

When the promise of the coming Savior was made, it was then that the Dragon learned that the church was to give birth to the "man child" and from then on he watched her closely, hoping to destroy the world's Redeemer as soon as He was born. This he endeavored to accomplish through Herod, when he caused a multitude of little children to be slaughtered. The child Christ, nevertheless escaped, and the Devil met his First Defeat in this connection.

Her crown of twelve stars originally represented the twelve Patriarchs and later the twelve tribes after they went out of Egypt, at which time the wonderful light shining from the written Word of God (the Bible), clothed the church (woman) while she was travailing with the "child" (the promise of the Messiah). But the crown of twelve stars in the New Testament period represent the twelve apostles. Number twelve is a symbol of government. Jesus said to them: "Ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matt.

19:28). This fact is proven by the type (the twelve tribes).

The Dragon

Now the Dragon being fortified with seven heads and ten horns, denotes that he controlled all the civil and religious powers in that day (for the symbolical number "ten" denotes universality, just as do the ten toes of Daniel 2, the ten horns of the other Bible beasts, and the ten virgins of Matthew 25).

The horns represent all the civil powers, while the heads represent all the religious powers, for the Biblical number "seven" denotes completeness. Moreover, the fact that the Church (the Jews), the only agency through which God worked up to that time, crucified the Lord, is in itself sufficient proof that the Church had apostatized, that she had become the Dragon's seventh head, and that thus was the Dragon armed with ten horns and seven heads,—with all the civil and religious powers. And so, you see, the Dragon with his horns and heads represents the world captured by the Devil.

Here are described two different "castings out". Note that in the first instance, the dragon drew the angels with his tail. But, you wonder, why not with his claws?—Simply because such would falsely indicate that Satan defeated the Lord and consequently dragged out of heaven a third of the angels. But since he drew them with his tail, the true significance is clear—that a third part of the angels voluntarily followed him. They clung to his tail, so to speak, while he led the way. "They turned from the Father and from the Son, and united with the instigator of rebellion." *Testimonies*, Vol. 3, p. 115. The dragon persuaded the angels, and they followed him from heaven to earth, whereupon he sought to devour Christ.

The Second Defeat

This incident of verse 4, the dragon drawing down the stars, preceded the incident of verse 9, the Lord casting down the dragon. The former took place before the Lord was born, and the latter after His resurrection. This is made manifest in the following paragraphs.

In the days of Job Satan still had access to heaven, for we are told that "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." Job 1:6, 7.

Satan, then, was not cast out of heaven immediately after he rebelled, or even when he caused Adam and Eve to sin. Rather, it must have been after Job's time. But to determine just when, we shall read verse 13: "And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child." He therefore was cast out before he went to persecute the church. This he did at the "time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles." Acts 8:1. This fact is again borne out by the Spirit of Prophecy:

"Satan saw that his disguise was torn away...By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings... The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken." *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 833, 834, 761.

Indeed, realizing that he had brought an end to his ever again in heaven accusing the brethren, and knowing that his stay even on earth was to be very short, Satan dropped down with great wrath. (See verse 9-12).

God's people should ever be on alert for the voice of the Spirit of Christ, as well as be on guard to discern the spirit of Satan. When the two clash, the one strives for obedience to God's word, while the other excuses the sin and sympathizes with the sinner. The faithful, though, overcome him "by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." They love "not their lives unto death." Rev. 12:11.

The Flood

The main point to be noticed in these verses is that after the Dragon and his angels were cast out of Heaven (Satan's second defeat), and after he had persecuted the church, and she has taken her flight into the Wilderness, the dragon followed her there, but rather than persecuting her, he cast "water as a flood after her," hoping to cause her to be carried away by it. In other words, after he saw that he could not stop the growth of the Christian church by persecuting her followers, he changed his tactics and instead compelled the pagans to join her, expecting thereby to cause her to be paganized—"carried away."

As a result of persecuting the woman, Satan was, ironically, only helping rather than hindering the divine purpose. Indeed, the church's field (Matt. 13:38) grew

only pure "wheat", the "net" (verse 47) caught only good "fish", because against such a persecution, only the faithful dared take their stand for Truth and to become members of the hated sect. So, seeing the results of his oppression, he quickly changed his tactics.

The "Flood" is not the Sunday blue law, or any persecution in the past. The Sunday blue law has a different setting, and is described in Revelation 13, as a persecuting power to enforce the mark of the beast. "Flood" is the same as "water", (See Rev. 17:15 & Isa. 17:12) which means people (in the church, coming from Satan) the unconverted, whom Satan is using to cause the church to be carried away in a very quiet manner, so that no one would be suspicious of the great deception.

Just as soon as Satan cause his agents to cease oppressing the Christians, and to start fellowshipping with them, he beguiled them into thinking him their friend. Thus being eased of his persecution, they fell asleep spiritually; and while they slept, he sowed the tares (Matt. 13:25). Yea, he made a complete turn-about and even compelled the heathen to join the church, thereby casting out of his "mouth water as a flood after the woman that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood" Rev. 12:15.

This highly successful course he has unremittently pursued ever since, until as a result the church today is almost choked with tares. It is, as it were, infiltrated with a fifth-column. "To secure converts, the exalted standard of the Christian faith was lowered, and as the result A PAGAN FLOOD, flowing into the church, carried with it its customs, practices and idols." *The Great Controversy* p. 385. Further down on the same page she uses the expression "A WORLDLY FLOOD" (See entire page).

So long as Satan can successfully carry on this subversive work of flooding the church, he will never move a finger to persecute any for joining her, lest thereby he thwarts his own evil design to honeycomb her ranks with his agents—the flood, the tares. To insure the success of this insidious work, he casts out those who dare live a consistent Christian life there among the tares, while he is going about with his extinguisher turned on, trying to put out every life-spark of light.

Now we can clearly see why the church at large has "turned back from following Christ her leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt." (Testimonies Vol. 5 p. 217.) Why we are following worldly policy. The flood—the unconverted has overrun the church. What is the solution? What will God do to rectify the situation?

The Solution, The Third Defeat

“And the earth helped the woman, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.” Verse 16

Finally, though, as prophecy discloses, the tables are turned, and the long controversy ends with the Lord’s casting out and destroying (Rev. 12:16) Satan’s agents, the “flood” (the tares, the bad fish), and then lighting the earth with the glory of His angel (Rev. 18:1)! Here we see that the approaching work of making rid of the flood, thereby freeing the church from the unconverted, is the work of “the harvest” in “the end of the world” (last days) Matt. 13:39.

Anyone can see that this “flood” can represent only the church’s suddenly becoming infiltrated with unconverted pagans who, as in Constantine’s time and for years thereafter, were even taken en masse and forced into baptism. In the parables of Christ this same “flood is described, but under the different term, “tares”; and the evident fact that they are still very much in the church, forces the painful realization that the earth has not as yet swallowed up the flood.”

“Flood” and “tares” are figurative equivalents. The swallowing of the flood, therefore, is the same as the burning of the tares as comprehended in the parable of the harvest. (Matt. 13:30).

Besides the Revelator points out that not until After the flood is swallowed by the earth, after the church is thereby purified (by God), will the dragon wage his fiercest warfare against the remnant of the woman’s seed. Hence, the harvest time in the church, the time the earth swallows the flood, is before the dragon wars against the remnant.

“The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war (fight) with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Verse 17. The term “remnant” discloses that her seed is divided into two parts: The one is taken, the other is left. Nehemiah, for example explains: “The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach.” Neh. 1:3 A “remnant” always represents one part of the whole, either large or small.

Let it be remembered that it is after the earth swallows the flood that the dragon is to be wroth with the woman, and goes “to make war with the remnant of her seed (not with her personally), which keep the command-

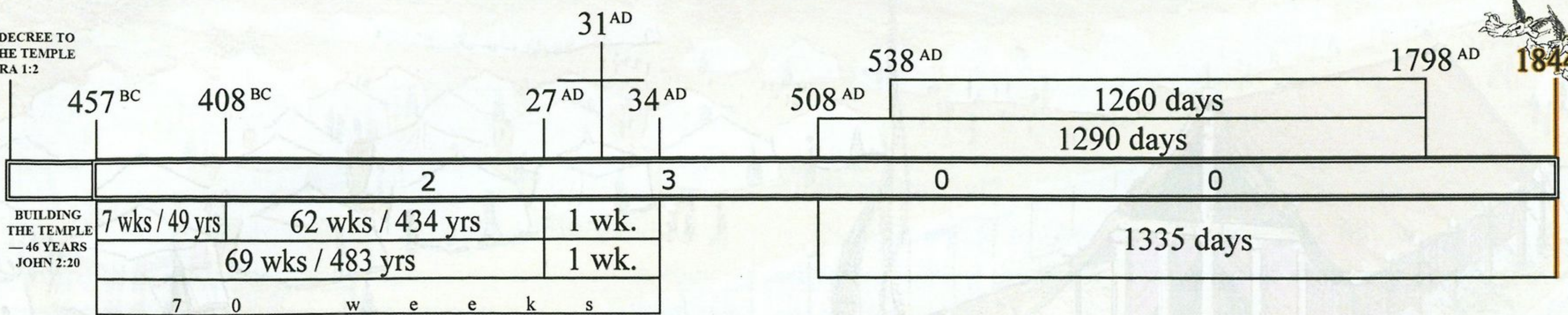
ments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Rev. 12:16, 17. The Dragon cannot war with the woman because those who remain (the faithful) after the earth swallowed the flood have been sealed—out of the dragon’s reach. Thus he is only “wroth” with her. But war with the “remnant of her seed”. The “remnant”, those who are left behind, who are still in Babylon, but who are finally called out of her (Rev. 18:4) The dragon’s warring against them is occasioned by their having the Testimony of Jesus, the Spirit of Prophecy (Rev. 19:10) by becoming commandment keepers instead of worshipers of the beast and his image. The dragon’s aim is to keep them from coming out of Babylon (Rev. 18:1-4).

It is after the earth swallows the flood, that the dragon is to be wroth with the woman and goes “to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev. 12:16, 17). There is no escaping the conclusion that the harvest, in taking away from the church Satan’s flood, his multiplied tares, does not bring the millennium of peace. Indeed not, but rather it brings God’s wrath—the time of trouble such as never was: the time in which His people in Babylon are called to “come out of her” and into His purified church.

Clearly, then, there is no escaping the conclusion that the doing away with Satan’s flood is the purifying of the church, the destroying of those who have joined the church through the aid of the serpent. This is her only hope, her only strength, her only deliverance. In this light, Inspiration now puts new life into the words: “Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall NO MORE COME INTO THEE THE UNCIRCUMCISED AND THE UNCLEAN.” Isa. 52:1 ☉

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CYRUS' DECREE TO BUILD THE TEMPLE
EZRA 1:2



Prophecy or Love?

Should the Church spend more time teaching love or Bible prophecy?

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; where unto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.” 2 Pet. 1:19.

The prophecies, therefore create love for God in the heart of the student as nothing else can.

If, moreover, the prophecies are less essential than other portions of the Scriptures, why then, did the Lord cause His servants to write so many of them? Obviously, they are as important. The book of the Revelation, which is addressed directly to the people who are to be living just before the Lord's coming, is made up of symbolical prophecies, concerning which the Lord says:

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” Rev. 1:3.
“Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.... For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” Rev. 22:7, 18, 19.

True, the love of Jesus is the supreme need, but preaching about it to the exclusion of the doctrines and

the prophecies, will profit one nothing, for through the prophecies and through the doctrines, one learns not only of the love of Jesus but also how to serve Him. “All scripture”, says Paul, “is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

Had the churches today taught the prophecies and the doctrines to the exclusion of the love of Jesus, then of course we would have to dwell more extensively on the love of Jesus than on the prophecies. But as the opposite is the case, the love of Jesus being magnified to the neglect of the prophecies, then of course our first and supreme need is to study the love of Jesus through the doctrines; afterward, our greatest burden will be thus to teach it.

While the gospel of love inspires us to love the Lord, the doctrines teach us the right way to love Him, and the light of the prophecies guides our feet in the strait and narrow path along the way to the city of God, just as at night the lights of an automobile show us the way home. Without them, we would inevitably soon lose the way, crash, and pile up in the dark—a mass of wreckage and death, perchance. Thus while we need the one, we just as much need the other. As Present Truth believers we therefore combine both, teaching the love of Jesus through the doctrines, and the way to the Kingdom through the prophecies. ☉

The Promised Elijah



What Ellen White said about another prophet

Majority of Seventh day Adventists were baffled by the idea of “another prophet” after Ellen G. White. All of us as members of this last Church believe that Sis. White is our Prophet or should I say that Seventh day Adventists should be accepting and should be believing that Sis. White is the prophet of the Seventh day Adventist church. Chapter 18 of the Fundamental Beliefs states:

“The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy.

“This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction to the church.

“They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested.

“(Num. 12:6; 2 Chron. 20:20; Amos 3:7; Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10; 22:8, 9.)”

The Sin Of Unbelief

However, sad to say not all believed her to be so. In Fundamental Beliefs, it states, “This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White.”

Unfortunately, many Seventh-day Adventists do not recognize that Sis. White is a Prophet of our day. They believe in her as just a Ministry. Infact some of our leading brethren do not believe that her writings are inspired but acknowledge that it is a very good source of reference.

In Manuscript Releases, Volume 3, page 90.1 it says: “In the time of the Flood nearly all the inhabitants of the world thought that they were right and that Noah was wrong. They claimed that they knew more than that faithful servant of God, and thus closed their ears to words of truth, and darkness came upon them. There were those then, as today, who explain away the truth by false science. They branded Noah as a fanatic. They explained to the people the foolishness of Noah’s statement that rain would come upon the earth when no sign

of such had ever existed. God's message was to come to them through Noah, but they laughed and mocked his words, and said, does he not speak in parables? But their unbelief did not prevent the Flood, and they finally drank the waters that covered the earth. We certainly do not want to be like them.

"When Christ made His first advent the same unbelief was manifested, and it has always been the same — that unbelief rejects the very truth that is necessary to their salvation. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. We must encourage faith and abandon unbelief, for it is a barrier to our spiritual prosperity. We must listen to the message of the third angel. This message is now due and it presents to us a present truth. Therefore we must search the Scriptures and lay aside our opinion, and be governed by the teachings of the Bible. We need to seek God in prayer that we may not be deceived, for it is a matter of great consequence that we take hold of truth." *3MR 90*.

Follow The Book And The Pilot

Here is an illustration that helps to put this matter in a still clearer light. Suppose we are about to start upon a voyage. The owner of the vessel gives us a book of directions, telling us that it contains instructions sufficient for our entire journey, and that if we will heed them, we shall reach in safety, our port of destination. Setting sail we open our book to learn its contents. We find that its author lays down general principles to govern us in our voyage, and instructs us as far as practicable, touching the various contingencies that may arise, till the end. He also tells us that the latter part of our journey will be especially perilous, that the features of the coast are ever changing by reason of quicksand and tempests; "but for this part of the journey" says he, "I have provided you a pilot, who will, meet you, and give you such directions as the surrounding circumstances and dangers may require; and to him you must give heed." With these directions, we reach the perilous time specified, and then the pilot, according to his promise, appears. But some of the crew, as he offers his services, rise up against him. "We have the original book of directions," say they, "and that is enough for us. We stand upon that, and that alone, we want nothing of you." Who now heed that original book of directions? Those who reject the pilot, or those who receive him, as the book instructs them? **JUDGE YE.**

Another Prophet?

Now in regard to "Another Prophet", the following narrative is from the book "The Spirit of Prophecy Treasure Chest" page 32.

"As Mrs. White neared the close of her life, Seventh-day Adventists generally were interested in what the future might hold by way of special illumination for the church. Just a few months before her accident and death, Elder M.N. Campbell, a well-known denominational executive, called on Mrs. White, and in his interview with her this question was raised. Here is Elder Campbell's report of that interview.

"Not many months before Sister White had her accident (Feb. 13, 1915), Elder Montgomery and I, and one other brother, visited her at Elmshaven. Elder W. C. White and sister McEnterfer were present at the interview. In the course of our conversation I asked Sister White if she had any light as to whether she would live until Jesus returned. She replied that she had no light as to whether she would or would not live till then.

"I expressed the earnest hope that the Lord would spare her to see the great controversy on the earth clear through to the second coming. 'for' I said, if you are laid away we shall be pestered with all sorts of fanatics arising, claiming to be your successors.

"Her quiet reply was, 'The Lord is perfectly able to take care of His cause.'

"Then I asked if, in the event of the Lord's calling her to her rest, another person was likely to be raised up to take her place. Several of her books were lying on the writing table attached to her chair. She spread her hands over them and said that in those books was outlined the information needed by our people for the rest of the journey. That is as far as she felt free to go in answering my question." *M.N. Campbell letter, Feb. 3, 1943*. On file at the office of the Ellen G. White Estate.

"In 1912, two years before the Campbell interview, Mrs. White's son Elder W. C. White, in replying to a letter on this point, wrote:

"You may be interested to know that during the last five years Mother has received six or eight letters from individuals who feel... that God has placed upon them the Spirit of Prophecy, and that He will instruct Sister White to testify in their behalf. To all of these Mother has been obliged to send the same answer, that God has given her no instruction regarding their call to any special work...

"Sometimes our brethren ask Mother who will bear

the burden of the special work which God has given her after her death, and she tells them she does not know. God has never revealed this to her, and she has no anxiety regarding the matter because God is fully able to instruct His servants and to manage His work according to His infinite wisdom and purpose” *W. C. White letter, Oct. 6, 1912.*

“Speaking again on this point, Elder White reported that when at times questions would arise as to the future, Mrs. White would point to her published works and manuscripts books and state:

“Here are my writings, when I am gone they will testify for me” —*W. C. White Letter July 9, 1922.*

“Elder F. M. Wilcox in an editorial in the Review and Herald shortly after Mrs. White’s death, dealt with this question of a successor, which was of general interest, and was in the minds of so many, stating:

“This is a question which only the Lord Himself can answer, and so far as we know He has never given to any one any intimation of His will in the matter.” *The Review and Herald, Aug. 19, 1915.*

“But, some ask, Why is it that there has been only one prophet in the remnant church while in Bible times there were many? In ancient times one after another was called to witness for God. Sometimes there were contemporaneous prophets. In this connection it is well to consider that in Bible times the prophets delivered their message orally. In some cases copies were laboriously made by hand, but even the scrolls were not generally available, and at times were even lost to the leaders of the people. It therefore became necessary for the Lord to keep His message before His people through repeated oral testimony.

“In our day the Spirit of Prophecy message have been printed not only in the English language but in many other leading languages of the world. They have been distributed widely. These books witness in the homes of all Seventh-day Adventists who care to secure them. They are read from the pulpits of our churches and reprinted in our journals. Thus Ellen White could truthfully declare:

“Whether or not my life is spared, my writings will constantly speak, and their work will go forward as long as time shall last.” *A. L. W.*

“My Writings Will Constantly Speak”

“Abundant light has been given to our people in these last days. Whether or not my life is spared, my writings will constantly speak, and their work will go forward as

long as time shall last. My writings are kept on file in the office, and even though I should not live, these words that have been given to me by the Lord will still have life and will speak to the people.” *ISM 55.5*

However, there is an admonition for us Seventh-day Adventists through the Spirit of Prophecy in 3 SM 84:

“Secure From Satan’s Seductive Delusions—Men may get up scheme after scheme, and the enemy will seek to seduce souls from the truth, but all who believe that the Lord has spoken through Sister White, and has given her a message, will be safe from the many delusions that will come in these last days—*Letter 50, 1906.*

“It Is Not I Whom You Betray, but the Lord—I have tried to do my duty to you and to the Lord Jesus, whom I serve and whose cause I love. The testimonies I have borne you have in truth been presented to me by the Lord. I am sorry that you have rejected the light given. . .

“Are you betraying your Lord because in His great mercy He has shown you just where you are standing spiritually? He knows every purpose of the heart. Nothing is hid from Him. It is not I whom you are betraying. It is not I against whom you are so embittered. It is the Lord, who has given me a message to bear to you—*Letter 66, 1897.*

“Giving Up Faith in the Testimonies.—One thing is certain: Those Seventh-day Adventists who take their stand under Satan’s banner will first give up their faith in the warnings and reproofs contained in the Testimonies of God’s Spirit.

“The call to great consecration and holier service is being made, and will continue to be made.”—*Letter 156, 1903. 3SM 83.5 - 3SM 84.4*

Elijah The Prophet

Let us go to the Word of God, the Bible:

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” *Malachi 4:5-6*

This verse was explained beautifully in Testimonies to the Minister, page 475.

“Prophecy must be fulfilled. The Lord says: “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” Somebody is to come in the spirit and power of Elijah, [See Appendix.]

and when he appears, men may say: "You are too earnest, you do not interpret the Scriptures in the proper way. Let me tell you how to teach your message."

"There are many who cannot distinguish between the work of God and that of man. I shall tell the truth as God gives it to me, and I say now, If you continue to find fault, to have a spirit of variance, you will never know the truth. Jesus said to His disciples, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." They were not in a condition to appreciate sacred and eternal things; but Jesus promised to send the Comforter, who would teach them all things, and bring all things to their remembrance, whatsoever He had said unto them." *TM* 475.

Others argue that the Elijah here referred to is Sis. White herself. Studying the passage shows that it is not a "she" but a "he", and he will be an interpreter of the Scripture as they say "You are too earnest, you do not interpret the Scriptures in the proper way. Let me tell you how to teach your message."

Since the promised Elijah is to be the last prophet to the church today, as John the Baptist was the last prophet to the church in his day, and since the last work on earth is the Judgment for the Living, the truth stands forth like the light of day that Elijah's message is the message of the Judgment for the Living, the last, which in the very nature of the gospel is of far more importance and consequence than any other message ever borne to a people.

"Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper." *2 Chro.* 20:20

Our Church's prosperity comes when we believed our Lord and His Word through His Prophets. Do not fight against the Truth for you might be fighting against the Lord. Pray the Lord will open our eyes and ears and the discernment to know and understand the message that antitypical Elijah brought in our time: The Judgment of the Living which is Ezekiel 9.

In the book 1MR p. 260 inspirations says:

"Study the 9th chapter of Ezekiel. These words will be literally fulfilled; yet the time is passing, and the people are asleep. They refuse to humble their souls and to be converted. Not a great while longer will the Lord bear with the people who have such great and important truths revealed to them, but who refuse to bring these truths into their individual experience. The time is short. God is calling; will you hear? Will you receive His mes-

sage? Will you be converted before it is too late? Soon, very soon, every case will be decided for eternity." *Letter 106, 1909, pp. 2, 3, 5, 7.* (To "The churches in Oakland and Berkeley," September 26, 1909.)

Also in 5T 211 it states:

"The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God. The Lord commissions His messengers, the men with slaughtering weapons in their hands: "Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

"Here we see that the church—the Lord's sanctuary—was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God. The ancient men, those to whom God had given great light and who had stood as guardians of the spiritual interests of the people, had betrayed their trust. They had taken the position that we need not look for miracles and the marked manifestation of God's power as in former days. Times have changed. These words strengthen their unbelief, and they say: The Lord will not do good, neither will He do evil. He is too merciful to visit His people in judgment. Thus "Peace and safety" is the cry from men who will never again lift up their voice like a trumpet to show God's people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins. These dumb dogs that would not bark are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God. Men, maidens, and little children all perish together." *5T 211*

Brothers and Sisters, the message of Elijah is here, let us be like the Bereans and study the word of God. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." *2 Timothy 2:15.*

"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." *Rev. 1:3.* ☉



The **Mark** *of The* **Beast**

The prophecy of Revelation 13—The Mark of the Beast, is a study that we are very familiar with as Seventh-day Adventists. We teach the resurgence of Roman supremacy, and that the world, including the United States of America, will pay explicit veneration to both the Papacy and its religious institutions, particularly, Sunday observance. We say that this act will establish the Pope as the undisputed head—the man who bears the mystical number 666 and who will threaten all opposers with the pain of death for non-compliance with the laws of Sunday worship. But is the Pope to be the undisputed leader who will enforce the Mark of the Beast decree?

Could We Have Been Wrong?

There are other candidates for this position of “world despot.” There are the world economic and political elites, the numerous religious heavies, countless spiritualists and gurus, not to mention Communism. (Don’t let anyone fool you, Communism is not really dead—but that’s another study). It all depends from whose vantage point you view the subject. Admittedly, the idea that the Papacy is the 666 appears logical but is it really biblical?

There is no contesting the sordid and barbarous history of Ecclesiastical Rome. Who can deny the grotesque crusades, the inquisition, and the St. Bartholomew mas-

sacre. And yes, the Bible plainly reveals that there will be a replication of the international church-and-state rule of the Middle Ages, along with its train of “intolerance and persecution.”¹ But could it be that we have been mistaken about the Papacy’s role for the future? Is it possible that we have misunderstood the biblical record concerning the identity of the 666? Could it be that the 666 is not the pope after all?

Hopefully you don’t mind your views being challenged. Well, we shouldn’t. Inspiration tells us that: “We have many lessons to learn and many, many to unlearn.”² Furthermore, says the servant of the Lord, “There is need of a much closer study of the word of God; especially should Daniel and the Revelation have attention as never before in the history of our work. We may have less to say in some lines, in regard to the Roman power and the papacy; but we should call attention to what the prophets and apostles have written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God.”³

Interesting? Why don’t we restudy the subject—although in brief—the Scriptural record in regards to the subject. We need to know the truth so we can be prepared.

The First Beast

In Daniel Chapter 7, we are told of the four ancient world powers—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome (Pagan and Papal)—lion, bear, leopard, and non-descript beast, respectively. In Revelation Chapter 13, verses 1-10, we have the description of a ten-horned, seven-headed crowned beast, who came out of the sea having the mouth of a lion, the feet of a bear, body of a leopard, and the ten horns of the Non-descript beast.

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshiped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshiped the beast, saying, who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

The composite make-up of the beast is a faithful

witness that he is a descendant and melting pot of the ancient empires. The beast’s forty-two month period (verse 5)—1260 years—538 A.D. to 1798 A.D. falls in the time of ecclesiastical or Papal Rome; whereas its wounded state (Rev. 13:3), symbolizes it during the Protestant period. In other words, the beast represents three periods: The period prior to the wound, the period during the wound, and the period after the wound is healed. Thus this conglomerate beast covers the history of the Papacy and Protestantism.

Moreover, the ten horns or kings of Daniel’s fourth symbolical beast—Rome—were crownless. Why? Because the popes had the authority—they had the rulership. The crowns of the Leopard-like, however, show that he represents the period in which the kings took back their crowns—rulership. Thus, John’s beast reveals a world after the fall of the Papacy where the nations regain their civil powers and independence. This again is showing that the Leopard-like Beast prefigures the world primarily after the collapse of the Vatican in 1798. This is just more proof that the beast is a symbol of the world we live in today.

Now, looking at the heads, we see that one was wounded but later healed. It is commonly understood that the one wounded head is a clear symbol of the Papacy who received its fatal blow during the Protestant reformation culminating in the arrest of an already weakened Rome. So if one head is a religious body, then the other six unharmed heads must be other religious bodies—churches, if you will. The number seven shows “completeness”, comprehensiveness.⁴ In short, it means that the heads portray Christendom in its entirety, and the horns being ten, portray the civil governments that were at one time under the rule of Rome, but were later freed. Thus both horns and heads must represent the world today, particularly western society, just as how Daniel’s four beasts represented the world in their day. In other words, this first beast of Revelation 13 could not represent the Papacy alone, but a universal system led by Western ideals of which the Papacy is only a part.

In summary, this multi-headed, multi-horned beasts, must represent a world comprised of many Christian churches and nations, born and developed out of the struggles of the Dark Ages and Papal Rome; a world dominated by Catholicism, Protestantism, Democracy, and Capitalism.

If this sounds like Western culture, you’re right! Is it

not true that our present world is led by the West? Western culture, the culture which broke away from Rome, now indoctrinates the world. Generally speaking, everyone covets western lifestyle. No wonder the Leopard-like Beast boasts: “Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” (Verse 4). And no marvel “all the world wondered after the beast [the system]. . . and the dragon gives him “power.” (Verses 3, 4).

Revelation 13, verses 11-18, describes the second beast in this chapter:

The Second Beast

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed . . . he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.” (Verses 11, 12, 15 - 18.)

It is well known, particularly in Adventists circles, that this two-horned non-royalist power represents our blessed country, the United States of America.⁵ No doubt you're also familiar with the reasons. Unlike the first beast, he comes from the earth, the new world. The two crownless horns show two non-royalist two-party government based on its Republican and Protestant ideals. The lamb-like appearance forecasts youthful innocence—established upon the principles of peace and liberty. And his having the power to dictate who should buy and who should not, shows that he represents a nation that leads in controlling the world's wealth and industry.

Having only two horns, not ten, the beast therefore depicts a local, not a universal government. Nevertheless, he will influence all Christendom to “make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” That is, he will engineer a worldwide government set-up, re-enthroning the principles of the church-state rule of Papal Rome; a system now characterized by Catholicism, apostate Protestantism, and Capitalism. In other words, the world will copy the Leopard-like beast

(Verse 12). Put still another way, it means that America will urge the world to reestablish an apostate religious-political system after the model of Western society with principles imaging those of the Dark Ages (Verse 12). Note that it did not say that the Two-horned beast urged the world to worship the “head”—the Papacy, but the “beast”—the system—which is: Catholicism, apostate Protestantism, and Capitalism, topped off with Spiritualism! This is when, “Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government. . .”⁶

The “Beast” And The “Man”

Now that we have looked at the context of Revelation 13, we are now better prepared to identify the 666. “Here is wisdom,” says the Scriptures. “Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six” (Verse 18).

To identify this “man,” we must identify the “beast”—the power the “man” represents and leads. Thus we must ask, to which power is Verse 18 referring? The Leopard-like or the Two-horned? Look at it again! Note that it did not say, count the number of the beast with the wound! Or count the number of the beast which had his deadly wound healed! It just states, “count the number of the beast.” Whenever the Bible refers to the Leopard-like beast, it always mentions the wound! (See verses 3, 12). In contrast, “the beast” without mention of the wound, is the Two-horned Beast or the Image Beast.” So the beast or power in verse 18 is the Two-horned or the United States of America—not the Papacy!

Furthermore, if this is not so, why so many symbols for the Papacy? We have the little horn of Daniel 7. We say that the Leopard-like Beast, the 666, the Woman of Revelation 17, the seven heads on which she sits, and the Scarlet-colored Beast are all symbols of Rome! Why? What about the rise and fall of Protestantism? What about the rise of Western culture? What about our present world? Why would God leave them out?

Still skeptical? Consider the following inspired references: “This power is the last that treads down the true church of God and as the true church is still trodden

down, and cast out by all Christendom, it follows that the last oppressive power has not 'come to his end;' and Michael has not stood up. This last power that treads down the saints is brought to view in Rev. 13:11-18. His number is 666. . ."⁷

"I saw that the number (666) of the Image Beast [the two-horned] was made up; and that it was the beast [Leopard-like] that changed the Sabbath, and the image Beast had followed on after, and kept the Pope's and not God's Sabbath."⁸ Brackets added.

The first statement was made by James White but in conjunction with Ellen White. The second is hers. Note that they do agree and make a very pungent point: That the number 666 is the power found in verses 11-18, which is the Two-horned beast or the United States—otherwise known as the "Image Beast." So the number 666 is not on the Leopard-like Beast who is found in verses 1-10 of Revelation 13 and who changed the Sabbath during the Dark Ages, but on the "Image Beast" who followed. This is clear, logical, and biblical! After all, the context of verses 11-18, reveal the identity and work of the United States, not the Leopard-like beast!

Thus the "man" who stands at the head of the United States at the time of the fulfillment of this prophecy will bear the enigmatic number "666," not the Pope! Yes, the Bible does state that America will pay homage to the Leopard-like Beast, but, we have already seen that the Leopard-like Beast is not the Papacy alone, but in fact, represents the Western world model or system. Again, the Bible did not say that America will tell the world to worship the "head" but the "beast"—the system! The truth is that the Papacy will never again rule like she did in the Middle Ages. That's right! Never! Her time for dominance is over. Yes, she will be influential. Yes she will probably gloat over the homage paid her through a Sunday law, however, she will never again sit atop the world. About now, you're probably saying that old ideas die hard. Well, that may be true, but don't keep them alive.

"I saw that the two-horned beast," wrote Ellen White, "had a dragon's mouth, and that his power was in his head, and that the decree would go out of his mouth. Then I saw the Mother of Harlots; that the mother was not the daughters, but separate and distinct from them. She has had her day, and it is past, and her daughters, the Protestant sects, were the next to come on the stage and act out the same mind that the mother had when she persecuted the saints. I saw that as the mother has been

declining in power the daughters had been growing and soon they will exercise the power once exercised by the mother."⁹

Obviously the Enemy wants us to focus in one direction while he attacks from another. While we trace the Papacy's every move, the real danger lurks behind us, waiting to snag our unwary souls into his honed claws.

"All who will not bow to the decree of the national councils," the servant of the Lord continued, "and obey the national laws to exalt the Sabbath instituted by the man of sin, to the disregard to God's holy day, will feel, not the oppressive power of popery alone, but of the Protestant world, the Image of the Beast."¹⁰

The History Of The Number

Now you're saying, fine, but why does the Latin numerals on the Pope's title Vicarius Filii Dei add up to 666? A fair question indeed. But perhaps we have forgotten that this phenomenon is replete throughout the long history of paganism, astrology, and witchcraft. The numbers 6, 36 and 666 are sacred in these circles. So why would it be strange for the Pope's title to equal 666 when the Papacy is itself fraught with Paganism!

Furthermore, there are countless names that numerically compute to 666—it is not restricted to the Pope alone! XIUN, one of the names for the Sun-god in Greek, numerically add to 666.¹¹ The Mythological bird of the Egyptians, Phoenicians, and many of the Indian tribes of North America, was the Phoenix, worshiped as the bright and morning star. In Egypt it was the representation of the nocturnal symbol of the Sun-god Osiris. In Greek transliteration, the Phoenix was spelled the FENEX, whose numerical value equaled 666.¹² An ancient Greek name for Satan was TEITAN, which equals 666 in its numerical values. Even the original Roman numerals, IVXLCD, also equaled 666.

Astrologers commonly used 6, 36, and 666 for their divinations. "They invented magic charts . . . like the roulette wheel. The charts were divided into 36 numbered divisions. There were six columns in all directions with the numbers 1 to 36 placed inside the entire chart. Any direction you add the columns, they add to 111. There are six squares in each column and six times 111 equals 666. If you add all the numbers from 1 to 36 they will also add to 666. . . the number 666 was the summary number of the sun-god, because it was his sacred number as the Ruler of the Zodiac."¹³

The Bible places the number on the Two-horned Beast—the United States, not the Papacy. So the prevailing belief that the number 666 is the numerical identification of some other power is the spawn of the Prince of Darkness, and is calculated to conceal if possible the identification of this two-horned power. God places the number on the United States, and there we must leave it.¹⁴

Thus The Beast's civil authority—the man 666—combined with the False Prophet's supernatural power, points to a union of beast and prophet—an affiliation of state and of church representatives. Together they, leading the United States, will control the world's politics, economics, and religion, and will seek to compel all to bow to the "Image of the Beast."

Maybe we need to look less at the Pope and more at ourselves and apostate Protestantism. No wonder Inspiration intimated that if we studied Daniel and Revelation more closely, we "may have less to say in some lines, in regard to the Roman power and the Papacy."¹⁵

Are God's People Now Ready?

The time is not far off when the United States of America will enforce The Mark of the Beast. Are God's people ready for that fearful time?

"The people of God are unready for the fearful, trying scenes before us, unready to stand pure from evil and lust amid the perils and corruptions of this degenerate age. They have not on the amour of righteousness, and are unprepared to war against the prevailing iniquity. Many are not obeying the commandments of God, yet they profess so to do."¹⁶

"The church has turned back from following Christ her leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self instead of Christ, would have it thus. The testimonies are unread and unappreciated. God has spoken to you. Light has been shining from His word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded. The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us."¹⁷

"The people are subordinating themselves to the world, to its practices, its customs, its selfishness. The church has gone over to the world in transgression of

the law, when the world should have come over to the church in obedience to the law. Daily the church is being converted to the world."¹⁸

The Needed Preparation

"A revival and reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend."¹⁹

"Let each put the question to his own heart: 'How have we fallen into this state of spiritual feebleness and dissension? Have we not brought upon ourselves the frown of God because our actions do not correspond with our faith? Have we not been seeking the friendship and applause of the world rather than the presence of Christ and a deeper knowledge of His will?' Examine your own hearts, judge your own course."²⁰

"Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven."²¹

"Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them."²²

"We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn. God and heaven alone are infallible. Those who think that they will never have to give up a cherished view, never have occasion to change an opinion, will be disappointed. As long as we hold to our own ideas and opinions with determined persistency, we cannot have the unity for which Christ prayed."²³

"Lead of God, but not infallible,—we must not think, 'well, we have all the truth, we understand the main pillars of our faith, and we may rest on this knowledge.' The truth is an advancing truth and we must walk in the increasing light."²⁴

"When new light is presented to the church, it is perilous to shut yourselves away from it. Refusing to

hear because you are prejudiced against the message or the messenger will not make your case excusable before God. To condemn that which you have not heard and do not understand will not exalt your wisdom in the eyes of those who are candid in their investigations of truth. And to speak with contempt of those whom God has sent with a message of truth, is folly and madness.”²⁵

The Lord's Response

“We have been inclined to think that where there are no faithful ministers there can be no true Christians, but this is not the case. God has promised that where the shepherds are not true He will take charge of the flock Himself. God has never made the flock wholly dependent upon human instrumentalities. But the days of purification of the church are hastening on apace. God will have a people pure and true. In the mighty sifting soon to take place we shall be better able to measure the strength of Israel. The signs reveal that the time is near when the Lord will manifest that His fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor.”²⁶

“Study the 9th chapter of Ezekiel. These words will be literally fulfilled; yet the time is passing, and the people are asleep. They refuse to humble their souls and to be converted. Not a great while longer will the Lord bear with the people who have such great and important truths revealed to them, but who refuse to bring these truths into their individual experience. Time is short. God is calling, will you hear? Will you receive His message? Will you be converted before it is too late? Soon, very soon, every case will be decided for eternity.”²⁷

“In that day only the righteous are promised deliverance. “The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; he shall dwell on high: his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure. Isaiah 33:14-16.”²⁸

“Only those who have withstood temptation in the strength of the Mighty One will be permitted to act a part in proclaiming it [the Third Angel's message] when it shall have swelled into the loud cry.”²⁹

A full realization of the glorious reward that awaits

mankind will even now compel us to shout for joy! And a like realization of the dreadful penalty that awaits all who fail to make God their refuge, will cause them even now to weep and gnash their teeth.

Therefore, “Let us strive with all the power God has given us to be among the 144,000.” ☉

— Editors

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3. E. G. White, *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 37.
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5. E. G. White, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 585.
6. E. G. White, *The Great Controversy*, pp. 440-442.
7. E. G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 451.
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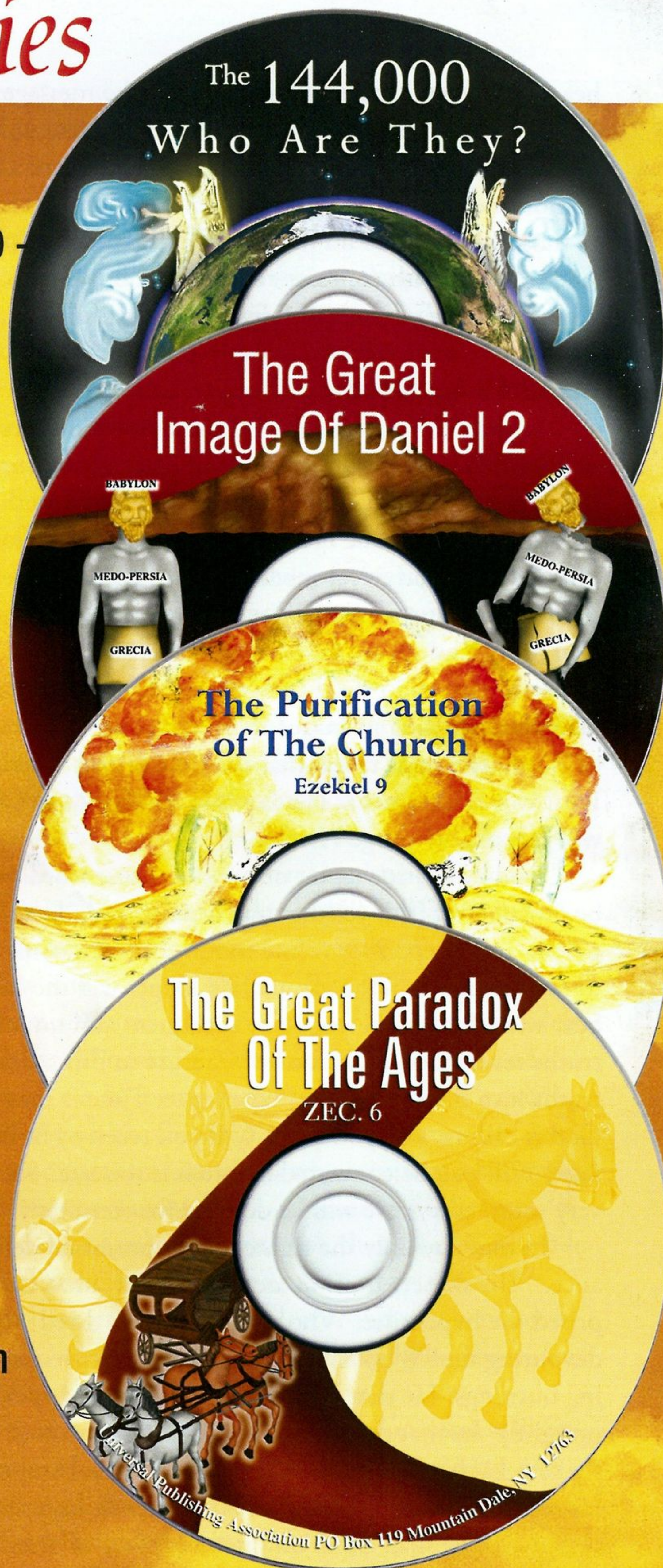
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