

THE MARK OF THE BEAST, THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST AND THE PURIFICATION OF THE CHURCH.

INTRODUCTION: “ The time is not far distant **when the test will come to every soul.** The observance of the false sabbath will be urged upon us. **The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men.** Those who have yielded step by step to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will then yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. At that time **the gold will be separated from the dross.** True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out

in darkness. Those who have assumed the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will then appear in the shame of their own nakedness.”(PK 188.1)

The Four Great Empires.

What does Daniel 2 and 7 review?

The four great empires: **Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome.** (See also Education pg 176)

What are the two stages of the Roman Empire?

1st Stage: Pagan Rome, represented by the fourth beast(kingdom) with ten horns(kings) - Daniel 7:7

2nd stage: Papal or Ecclesiastical Rome,
represented by the little horn having the “eyes
like the eyes of man, and **a mouth speaking
great things..**”(Daniel 7:8,20-25)

**What did Paul say must take place
before the second coming?**

**“...for that day shall not come, except there
come a falling away first, and that man of sin
[the papacy] be revealed, the son of perdition;
Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all
that is called God, or that is worshipped; so
that he as God sitteth in the temple of God,
shewing himself that he is God. ”**
(2Thessalonians 2:3-4)

**What does falling away mean and
when did it occur?**

Apostasy - departure from the simplicity of the gospel...

“During the lives of the apostles the church remained comparatively pure. ‘But toward the latter end of the second century most of the churches assumed a new form, the first simplicity disappeared; and insensibly, as the old disciples retired to their graves, their children, along with new converts ... came forward and new-modeled the cause. ”

[Robinson, in History of Baptism.] 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.” [Gavazzi's Lectures, p. 290.]. (GC88 384.5)

PAPAL ROME

“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. ” (Revelation 13:1-2)

Like the four beasts of Daniel 7 which came out of the sea(Old country - Western Europe- Rev 17:15), this leopard like beast had the same place of origin. Having the characteristics of babylon(mouth of a lion), Medo-Persia(feet of a bear), Greece(leopard-like) and Rome(ten horns) shows that **he’s a descendant of them - a melting pot of all these ancient empires.**

The characteristics of this beast and of the little horn of Daniel 7 **are identical.** Finding himself in the **same period of 1260years** (From

AD538-AD1798) - he, like the little horn, represents the papacy.

Inspiration, however, **does not seem to indicate** the **the entire beast, together with ten horns**(civil authorities, kings - Dan 7:23) and **seven heads**(religious bodies - Rev 17:9, Isa 56:6,7,Dan 9:20) **represents the papacy**, just like the the non-descript beast(kingdom) **does not entirely represent the little horn** [the papacy]. The papacy or Catholicism is represented **by the head**(religious body) that was wounded to death and the wound was healed(Rev 13:3) as everyone knows, whose influence extended to all civil and religious bodies(the whole beast) for 1260years.[To be discussed in more depth]

How and when did the dragon[Satan/Pagan Rome] give power, seat and authority to this beast?

“ In chapter 13 [Verses 1-10.] is described another beast, ‘like unto a leopard,’ **to which the dragon gave ‘his power, and his seat, and great authority.’** This symbol, as most Protestants have believed, **represents the papacy, which succeeded to the power and seat and authority once possessed by the ancient Roman Empire.**”(GC88 439.1)

"Christian Rome was **the legitimate successor of pagan Rome** ...(W. H. C. Frend, The Bisc of Christianity: p. 773)

The papacy ruled for 1260years from AD538 until she was deprived of her civil powers and

brought to an end in AD1798, fulfilling Revelation 13:10.

THE ROLE OF AMERICA IN PROPHECY...

What did John see just after the fall of the papacy in 1798?

“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..”(Revelation 13:11)

This power arising from the earth(unpopulated area away from Europe) **after the fall of the papacy**, and having two lamb-like horns(symbolizing youth, innocence, gentleness and the two major principles: Republicanism and Protestantism- GC88 440,441), **points unmistakably to the United**

States of America. It must be remembered that prophecy is talking about the American system, not its citizens.

How will the USA shift from its lamb like character?

“The lamb-like horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contradiction between the professions and the practice of the nation thus represented. The ‘speaking’ of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. By such action it will give the lie to those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy. The prediction that it will speak ‘as a dragon,’ and exercise ‘all the power of the first beast,’ plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution that was manifested by the nations represented by the dragon and the

leopard-like beast. And the statement that the beast with two horns ‘causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast,’ **indicates that the authority of this nation is to be exercised in enforcing some observance which shall be an act of homage to the papacy.**”(GC88 442.1)

Thus, the spirit and power of the papacy during the dark ages will be found with the United States of America.

Prophecy also predicts that America will surely be involved in making deceptive miracles, by which the inhabitants of the earth will be deceived (Revelation 13:13-14). These miracles, though, are not performed by America itself, but **by the false prophet**, for we read, “And the beast was taken, and **with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them**

that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.. ” (Revelation 19:20). This miracle working power will be one of Satan ’ s successful tools to deceive the world(Matt 24:24,Rev 16:13).

THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST.

Who ’ s going to make the Image of the beast?

America will make it.

“And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live...”
(Revelation 13:14)

What is this Image of the beast?

An image is a copy or replica of the original. If America is to make an image of the papacy, **then the characteristics of this image resembles those of the papacy.** This fact can be proved not only By Inspiration, but also by looking at the scriptures that follow, Revelation 13:15-17.

“The special characteristic of the beast, and therefore of his image, is the breaking of God's commandments...”(GC88 446.1)

The golden image of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 3 is a typology of this one.

How exactly is it going to be formed?

It has been seen that the union between

America and the miracle working power, the false prophet, **depicts the union of Church and state** in the last great crisis...

“ When the leading churches of the United States, **uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common**, shall influence the State to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result....The ‘**image to the beast**’ represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas.”(GC88 445.1.2)

Manifestly, then, **the Image of the beast is that religio-polical system which will be set up by the United States for no other purpose**

but to promote papal doctrines, like in the dark ages, that through it the whole world may pay homage to the papacy and thus worship Satan(Rev 13:4). One major factor that will help revive papal principles, as we can see, **is similarity in doctrines between Catholicism and Protestantism**. This surely lessens the distance between the Protestant churches and Rome.

What will the Image of the beast exactly do?

“ And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and **cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed..”(Revelation 13:15)**

“ In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must

so control the civil government that the authority of the State will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends..”
(GC88 443.2)

The United States, therefore, must necessarily be **a world superpower** for her to fulfill these prophecies. The Papacy has not yet been restored with civil power, otherwise we would have seen the repetition of the past persecutions. “Let the **restraints** now imposed by **secular governments be removed, and Rome be re-instated in her former power, and there would speedily be a revival of her tyranny and persecution.**”(GC88 564.1)

When The Church of Rome shall have her **civil powers** restored unto her, **then that deadly wound will be completely healed.**

As the papacy persecuted and killed God ’ s faithful people in the dark ages, so his image

will revive the same principles, **making a command to persecute and kill the saints who will not obey the laws of man.**

“And 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 that no man might buy or sell, **save he that had the mark**, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”(Revelation 13:16-17)

This power will even control world markets.(Revelation 18:11), that it will even enforce the mark of the beast upon the inhabitants of the world.

But What is the Mark of the Beast?

It is the mark of the Papacy - a stamp of her authority. The Bible warns against receiving the mark of the beast(Rev 14:9-12).

The papal system says,

"Sunday is our MARK of authority!.. The Church is above the Bible, and this transference of sabbath observance is proof of that fact." - (The Catholic Record, London, Ontario, Canada, September 1, 1923.)

"Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act • **AND THE ACT IS A MARK of her ecclesiastical power.**"(from the office of Cardinal Gibbons, through Chancellor H.F Thomas, November 11,1895)

Confirms Inspiration,

“ When the test comes, it will be clearly shown what the mark of the beast is. It is the keeping of Sunday. The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord's memorial

of creation.... The mark of the beast is the opposite of this—the observance of the first day of the week.”(LDE 224.2.3)

Has Babylon completely fallen?

““She made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication’ (Revelation 14:6-8). How is this done? By forcing men to accept a spurious sabbath. Not yet, however, can it be said that ... ‘she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ She has not yet made all nations do this....Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete. The change is a progressive one, and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8 is yet future. When do her sins reach unto heaven [Revelation 18:2-5]? When the law of God is

finally made void by legislation.”(LDE 198)

When the Protestant churches shall fully unite with the papacy and civil governments and agree **that the law of God is not valid, that Sunday instead of Sabbath is needed,** and when these shall threaten those who will try to honor God, **then Babylon will fall completely, and God’s people will be called out of her.**

Has anyone received the mark of the beast?

“No one has yet received the mark of the beast. The testing time has not yet come.

There are true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion.

None are condemned until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth

commandment. But when the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit sabbath, and

the loud cry of the third angel shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. Then those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.”(Ev 234.2)

When will the end come?

“ And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.. ”
(Matthew 24:14, Rev 18:4)

This gospel will sound in all the lands of Babylon, presenting unto the people the messages of God’s amazing love and His law. **“The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress**

of the papal power—all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these.”(LDE 199.3)

Do the statistics show that it’s an easy work?

No. The current World population is approximately **8 billion**, and will be more than that in the coming years if the Lord tarries. About **2.2bn = Christians**, **1.6bn = Muslims**, **1bn = Hindus**, e.t.c

Now the SDA Church has the membership of about **22million**. This means that, **99.725%** are non Seventh day Adventists, only **0.275%** are Seventh day Adventists.

Now the Lord says that the gospel must go to

all nations(to that 99.725%), that “ **God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of his judgments, these faithful ones must be called out, that they ‘partake not of her sins, and receive not of her plagues.’**”(GC88 604.1)

How is this work going to be accomplished?

You see, even before asking how the work will be accomplished, one cannot claim that the Seventh day Adventist Church **in its current condition** can manage to reach the 99.725%, because instead of trying to do so “ **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.**”(COL 315.3),

Yes **“The church has failed, sadly failed, to meet the expectations of her Redeemer ...”**
(LDE 58.2),

“ The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt..”(5T 217.2)

You remember, dear friends, that Israel failed to conquer a small city called Ai because of one wicked person Achan **who weakened the whole camp**(Joshua 7), what can make you think that the modern Israel will conquer the 99.725% of the world **“when every church and almost every family has its Achan?”**(5T 157.1) There are tares in the Church...

Crusades and other evangelistic meetings, you see, **will not actually accomplish the work**, until the voice of the loud cry goes forth proclaiming **“Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that**

ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. ” (Revelation 18:4-5)

What kind of the ministry will receive the latter rain?

In preparing for This work which will be done with the outpouring of the latter rain, Heaven declares “The **great issue** so near at hand **will weed out** those whom God has not appointed and **He will have a pure, true, sanctified ministry prepared for the latter rain..... ”**
(3SM 385.3)

The unserious members will be weeded(rooted) out of the Church, and the Lord will have a sanctified ministry.

What kind of people will He have?

“ ... they that are with him are called, and chosen, **and faithful.** ” (Revelation 17:14,12:17,14:12)

“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....Those who have rendered supreme homage to ‘science falsely so called’ will not be the leaders then. Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful

will not then be entrusted with the flock..”
(5T 79.4,80.1, Isa 52:1)

Thus the Lord will reorganize His Church leadership. The pretenders will not then stand at the head of the church.

Who will be permitted to participate in and finish this work of the Loud cry?

“The third angel's message is to lighten the earth with its glory; but only those who have withstood temptation in the strength of the Mighty One will be permitted to act a part in proclaiming it when it shall have swelled into the loud cry.”(RH November 19, 1908, Art. A, par. 9)

Overcomes only, No other.

“And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles. And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD. ” (Isaiah 66:19-20)

Here the Lord tells how He’s going to finish the work. To prepare His lovely Church for the final work, firstly **“the sinners in Zion will be sifted out** — the chaff separated from the precious wheat. **This is a terrible ordeal, but**

nevertheless it must take place..”(LDE 180.5),
for “ ..the ungodly shall not stand in the
judgment, **nor sinners in the congregation of
the righteous.** ” (Psalm 1:5), then the sealed
ones(those with a sign), who escape the
judgement “**at the house of God**”(1 Peter 4:17,
Ezekiel 9, 5T 211) are sent as missionaries to
all nations to **preach** the gospel “until the
truth shall belt the world”(CT 532).

**“The broken ranks will be filled up by those
represented by Christ as coming in at the
eleventh hour. There are many with whom the
Spirit of God is striving. The time of God's
destructive judgments is the time of mercy
for those who [now] have no opportunity to
learn what is truth. Tenderly will the Lord
look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched,
His hand is still stretched out to save, while the
door is closed to those who would not enter.
Large numbers will be admitted who in
these last days hear the truth for the first**

time.”(LDE 182.2)

As God through the numbered 120 disciples converted the unnumbered multitudes from the day of Pentecost, so the Same God will, in the very last hours of earth ’ s history, through the numbered 144,000, convert “ **a great multitude, which no man could number.**”
(Rev 7:3,4,9)

The world will be warned against worshipping the beast, his image or receiving his mark(Rev 14:9-11)

If the Church is, therefore, forever left to be where she is now, then the the world perishes. She ’ s in a Laodicean state, most of her members are Pharisees, and the Lord is “**whetting His sword in heaven to cut them down. Oh, that every lukewarm professor could realize the clean work that God is about to make among His professed people!.**”

(1T 189.2)

THIS IS HER ONLY STRENGTH, HER ONLY HOPE, HER ONLY DELIVERANCE.

When **this clean work** is accomplished, then and only then, “ **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.**”(PK 725.2)

“In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, **HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD**; and the pots in the **LORD’S** house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, **every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts**: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and

seethe therein: and **in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts..**”(Zechariah 14:20-21)

Then the Lord **“will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.”**
(Romans 9:28)

Then work of salvation will close and the seven last plagues will be poured.

Conclusion.

This, you see, is God’s program. If some cannot be persuaded but these clear truths about the Image of the beast, the mark of the beast, and especially the purification of the Church, then **“neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”** (Luke 16:31)

May the Lord help us to understand and

practice His truth. Amen!

WhatsApp: +260764198019