

VOLUME 2

The Order of Last day events

CHAPTER 4

The role of spiritualism

In the work of restoration of the Beast and his Image in these last days, the role of spiritualism is not to be overlooked, for it will play a major part in this return to power of ecclesiastical oppression.

"Satan has long been preparing for his final effort to deceive the world... little by little he has prepared the way for his masterpiece of deception in the development of spiritualism... Even in its present form, so far from being more worthy of toleration than formerly, it is really a more dangerous, because a

more subtle, deception. While it formerly denounced Christ and the Bible, it now professes to accept both. But the Bible is interpreted in a manner that is pleasing to the unrenewed heart, while its solemn and vital truths are made of no effect. Love is dwelt upon as the chief attribute of God, but it is degraded to a weak sentimentalism, making little distinction between good and evil." The Great Controversy, pp.561, 558.

In Matthew 24:24, we are warned that in the last days "There shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

The ones against whom we are warned, appearing in plural numbers in these last days are false Christs and false prophets. They come not as open enemies of the truth, but as counterfeits of the real. Among those who are opposed to God's living truths are men so polite, courteous,

helpful, calm and nice that you would ask yourself, "How could such a person ever be the enemy of God? Outwardly he bears all the marks of conversion. Surely from all I can see of this man he is a true child of God."

But do not be deceived. That is not the test. The ministers of unrighteousness come among us as angels of light to deceive and draw back God's people. In these last days we will have miracles, genuine, undeniable miracles of apparent conversions, worked by Satan's ministers. They will teach a message which appears to be the doctrine of Christ. It will look the same and sound the same, but God's true people will know by His Word that it is not the same because there are distinct differences.

"Genius, sympathy, even generous deeds, may become decoys of Satan to entice other souls over the precipice of ruin for this life and the life to come." Mount of Blessing, pp.94,95.

"To a superficial observer, persons who are naturally amiable, who are educated and refine, may appear perfect in life,"(Faith and Works, p.32) but do not be deceived, for "I saw that the mysterious signs and wonders, and false reformations would increase, and spread. The reformations that were shown me, were not reformations from error to truth, but from bad to worse; for those who professed a change of heart, had only wrap about them a religious garb, which covered up the iniquity of a wicked heart. Some appeared to have been really converted, as to deceive God's people, but if their hearts could be seen, they would appear as black as ever." E.G. White, Present Truth, Aug.1849, pp.21,22.

In the book of Revelation, it is made clear that there will be in the final and finishing conflict, a vast gathering of the powers of earth, and that this gathering will be accomplished through the work of the spirits of devils, WORKING MIRACLES. It is also made clear that this vast

confederacy of earthly power will be gathered together in opposition against the God of Heaven and against the Lamb, but that in the end the Lord will be the victor in the battle. See Isaiah 8:9-16.

Now these very same miracle working spirits of devils will be the prime agency in the bringing into being the Image of the Beast. This is expressly stated in Revelation 13:11-18. What is this fire that comes down from heaven (first heaven of course)?

Today men in the religious world are looking for the fulfilment of the second Pentecost. In Joel 2:28-32, is foretold the mighty outpouring of the Spirit in the last days. When this true work comes it will be the work of the true Christ and His workers, and the Devil and his evil spirits of devils fear the mighty power to be exercised in this movement.

They will work with all their deceptive power to mislead souls. To do this they will seek to counterfeit

the real before it comes so that many will be misled and deceived into a snare before the real movement comes. In this way they miss out on the true because they have become part of the false:

"I saw that God has honest children among the nominal Adventist and the fallen churches, and before the plagues shall be poured out, ministers and people will be called out from these churches and will gladly receive the truth. Satan knows this; and before the loud cry of the third angel is given, he raises an excitement in these religious bodies, that those who have rejected the truth may think that God is with them. He hopes to deceive the honest and lead them to think that God is still working for the churches. But the light will shine, and all who are honest will leave the fallen churches, and take their stand with the remnant." Early Writings, p.261.

The above prophecy from the Book of Joel has already had a fulfilment in

the experience of the Apostles at Pentecost. On that day, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and therefore speaking the truth of God, Peter said, "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." Acts 2:16. It was in that day when the words of Joel were first fulfilled that "fire came down from Heaven in the sight of men" as a testimony that the Holy Spirit had come in power on the people of God. That was a demonstration of the way in which this prophecy was to be fulfilled and the devil knows it. Inasmuch as he is determined to appear as Christ with the power of God, he will make it appear that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit has come, that Pentecost is being repeated.

The coming down of the fire from heaven which marked the descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, was immediately followed by miracles of healing. Likewise we can expect to see miracles of healing sweeping through those churches who, having rejected the light of truth

and the message of Sabbath reform, have opened the door to the inroads of spiritualism. And in these expectations we shall not be disappointed in our trust of the sure word of prophecy, for already this thing is being fulfilled before our very eyes. Today there is present in many of the churches a movement of power associated with which are miracles of healing so genuine as to be undeniable.

"And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men and deceived them that dwell upon 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 the sword and did live."

So the whole objective of the bringing of false fire from heaven, the whole objective of working miracles and therefore, the whole objective of the spirits of devils in

the last days is to bring into existence the formation of the Image of the Beast.

The threefold union

"Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deception. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism, and they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this three fold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling the rights of conscience." *The Great Controversy*, p.588; please read 552-560.

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the

dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Rev.16:13-14.

"Many will be confronted by the spirits of devils personating beloved relatives or friends and declaring the most dangerous heresies. These visitants will appeal to our tenderest sympathies and will work miracles to sustain their pretensions. We must be prepared to withstand them with the Bible truth that "the dead know not anything" and that they who thus appear are the spirits of devils... The Apostles, as personated by these lying spirits, are made to contradict what they wrote at the dictation of the Holy Spirit when on earth." The Great Controversy, pp.560,557.

We have the plainest warning that through the teaching of the

immortality of the soul, the spirits of devils will make fire come down from heaven, which is to make it appear that the Holy Spirit has been poured out. With equal clarity we have been warned that the spirits of devils have power to do miracles in the sight of men. Therefore we know that it is not safe to accept every appearance of the "Holy Spirit" and every miracle as a witness of the presence of the power of God. More likely it is the counterfeit abroad in its work of deception.

That this is not the work of the Spirit of God is evident from the fact that these people have rejected the message of truth for this time. They are of those who, having rejected the messages of God sent to the churches in the 1844 period, have fallen lower and lower and further and further into the grip of spiritualism.

"The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church

members love what the world loves, and are ready to join with them; and Satan determines to unite them in one body, and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of Spiritualism. Catholics, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this miracle working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deceived. Catholics, Protestants and worldlings, will alike accept the form of godliness without the power and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long expected millenium." The Great Controversy, pp.588,589.

But the true people of God will not be deceived. They will know that the work of these forces will be upholding error and not truth. But when Jesus at last appears in the clouds of heaven, then the true children of God will say, "Lo, this is our God. We have waited for Him.

We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." Isaiah 25:9.

Calamities and disasters

There is yet another means that the Devil use in his effort to bring all the people into subjection to himself and that is the instrument of calamity and trouble. While on the one hand through spiritualism he heals the people and thus appears as the benefactor of the race, on the other hand he works in his true role of destroyer.

This is brought to view very clearly in the way in which he afflicted Job, the servant of God. It was he who swept away all of Job's possessions but it was God who was blamed for it by those who came to see and to "comfort" Job. But Satan was able to go only so far as the Lord allowed him and no more. So today, still, "It is God that shields His creatures,

and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world has shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would, He will withdraw His blessings from the earth, and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law; and teaching and forcing others to do the same." The Great Controversy, p.589.

This leaves the door open for Satan to work his will. He will not treat all the same as it will best suit his purpose. "Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favour and prosper some, in order to further his own designs; and he will bring trouble upon others, and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them." Ibid, p.589.

In the book of Job we have some revelation of the power of Satan to control the elements of nature. There storm and tempest came at his call to sweep the possessions of God's

faithful servant. Since that time his learning and skill have advanced and he has even more power to destroy today. Thus we read, "While appearing to the children of men as the great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster until populous cities are reduced to ruin and to destruction. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hail-storms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. "The earth mourneth and fadeth away. The haughty people do languish. The earth is defiled under the inhabitants thereof, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the

ordinances, broken the everlasting covenant." Isa.24:4,5; The Great Controversy, p.590.

It is Satan's constant effort to make it appear that these calamities and disasters are visited upon the earth by the direct decree of God. But "It is thus that the great deceiver seeks to conceal his own work... God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression." Ibid, pp.35,36.

Misplaced blame

"And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils." Ibid, 590. This is the very opposite of the truth. It is just as much the opposite of the truth as the charge to be made that the desecration of Sunday will be the cause of the widespread wickedness and immorality in the world.

But it will be believed and the natural reaction will be to war against those who stand for the truth as it is in Jesus. This will be but to throw off still further the protection of God and to open the door for Satan to bring more trouble on the one hand and on the other to lead to still greater wickedness in the land, which will lead to still greater pressure for the Sunday Law and so on in an ever steepening spiral to the one possible end, the setting up of the Image of the Beast.

Thus it is that all these diabolical forces are working toward this end. The mighty power of spiritualism masquerading as true religion will be the great motivating and unifying force in the movement. And it will succeed to a point and for a short period of time. Of this we will learn more as we proceed in this study.

CHAPTER 5

Babylon the Great

In the study of the order of last day events, we have seen first of all the rise of the powers of darkness in the beast and his image. Then we have seen in the study entitled "*That other angel*" the parallel work of preparing a people to fight the battles of the Lord in the last days. While the devil is marshalling his forces, the Lord is also preparing His. It is a sad picture wherein the armies of the Lord cause many delays by their failure to measure up to the standards the Lord requires and generations pass away before the Lord finally has the army prepared.

For this reason the four winds of strife are held in check until this preparation is complete and then will be released the powers of heaven and earth for this last great conflict between the beast and his image on the one hand, and the armies of the living God on the other hand. This

will be the final and the finishing conflict which will ring down the curtain on this earth's history and usher in the glorious second coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is a conflict in which everyone of us is going to be involved should we live the short period of time until it comes, whether we like it or not. In this conflict every man, woman and child is going to have to take a stand on the one side or the other. There will be no neutrals then. The very force of the pressures of the great controversy will demand this to be so, and each must and will have to give his answer the one way or the other. Therefore, the subject of that conflict must be one which is of vital interest to all who live upon the earth at this time.

The issues in this warfare are spiritual, but this is not to say that the weapons of force are not going to be employed by those who are accustomed to gaining their ends by these means. But on the side of the

Lord, the weapons will be spiritual and not carnal, and God, through His faithful few, will resist the powers of darkness by the proclamation of a mighty and a powerful message, which message is contained in the first part of Revelation 18.

As we are interested in the order of last day events here, let us look at this Scripture from that point of view. Considerable light is thrown on the matter by comparing it with a very similar message which is found in Revelation 14:8. This is the message of the second angel, "preached in the summer of 1844." The Great Controversy, p. 389. Its proclamation followed the sounding forth of the first angel's message which went before it. As a result of the rejection of that message, "The churches then experienced a moral fall in consequence of their refusal of the light of the Advent Message." Ibid, 389.

But note this point with care, it is a simple fact of history that that

message could not go until it could be proclaimed as present truth in very truth. God does not lie in His messages. They speak the truth, so therefore, when He sends a message that Babylon is fallen, then that message does not come until Babylon is fallen.

This then brings us to the point where we can compare with profit the second angel's message of Revelation 14:8, and the message of the angel of Revelation 18:1-4. At first they may seem to be identical but there is a very vital difference and it is this, the second angel announces that Babylon is fallen, while the fourth angel announces that Babylon The Great is fallen. It is very much in order here to raise the question as to what difference there is between Babylon and Babylon the Great.

Babylon is the Bible name given to apostate and corrupt forms of religion at war with God, just as the term "Israel" is the identifying name given to the loyal and true people of

God. And, in the New Testament period through to the coming of Christ, these two, Babylon and Israel, uphold respectively the same principles, evil and righteousness, as were held by the Babylon and the Israel of the Old Testament.

We well understand that the Papacy and ancient Rome, held the principles of Babylon and in unrighteousness warred against God and His truth in the person of His saints. But they were not the Babylon which fell in 1844. The Babylon which fell at that time was the Protestant Churches to whom God had sent the light of truth and who flatly refused to receive that truth.

It follows then that if the term Babylon applies to a part of the whole, then the term Babylon The Great must apply to the whole of that mighty kingdom. In other words, as we look at a part of the kingdom, we can truthfully say that this is Babylon, but when we look at the whole of that mighty confederacy of evil against

the Lord of Heaven, we can only say, this is Babylon the Great.

The message of the angel of Revelation 18 is concerned with Babylon the Great and announces that she is fallen. Therefore, in the light of the above facts in regard to the message of the first and second angel's messages, it is evident that that message cannot and will not go under God's direction and leadership, until the fact of it is accomplished and it can be stated in very truth that Babylon the Great is fallen.

This immediately raises the question as to whether this is already present truth or is it a situation yet to be reached. There are always those who run ahead of the Lord, and it is needful that we test their claims by the word of the living God.

We learn from the book The Great Controversy page 603, that that message was still future at the time of the writing of this last edition in 1911. After quoting the scripture

from Revelation 18:1-4, the text goes on to say, "This Scripture points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Revelation 14, is to be repeated with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given in the summer of 1844."

The time referred to in the above statement is not a moment of time but a period of time. It is the period of time, as yet of unknown length, during which the message goes forward announcing the fall of Babylon the Great and calling on the true people of God to come out of her. It was still future at the time of the writing of the above, but for how long in the future? Inasmuch as we know that there will never be another message based on definite time, (7 BC 971; 1 S.M.188) then we cannot expect that we shall be informed anywhere of the exact date, but we can expect to

be told of the exact conditions which will bring Babylon the Great to the place where the message can go forth in truth that she is fallen.

Let us then begin to trace the evidence telling this to us. On the very next page to that quoted above we read, "Of Babylon, at the time brought to view in this prophecy, it is declared, 'Her sins have reached unto heaven and God hath remembered her iniquities.' She has filled up the measure of her guilt and destruction is about to fall upon her. But 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 none of her plagues.'"

The time brought to view in this prophecy is the time when the message goes forth that Babylon the Great is fallen. It is therefore also the time when the condition will have been reached when the sins of Babylon have reached as high as heaven and she

will have filled up the measure of her guilt. There is coming a time when the whole of Babylon in one vast confederacy will have come to the place where they will have reached the limit of rebellion against the God of Heaven.

And we are able to ascertain from the prophetic word just what event will bring them to the place where their sins will have reached unto heaven. Here are two statements, which, when read together give us the information we are seeking. In the first one you will read that the law of God is to be made void when the Sunday law is passed. This is the time of the setting up of the image of the Beast as we learned earlier in this series. Then the second statement tells us that the sins of the world will have reached unto heaven when the law of God is made void. Those words then tell us as plainly as it ever could be told that the point of time when Babylon the Great is finally fallen is that point of time when the law of God is made void in the land by the

enforcement of the Sunday law, by which act they fill up the measure of their guilt and their sins will reach unto heaven above. Read the truth of it in these statements.

"A time is coming when the law of God is, in a special sense, to be made void in the land. The rulers of our nation will, by legislative enactments, enforce the Sunday law, and thus God's people will be brought into great peril. When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land; and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin." RH Dec.18, 1888.

"The sins of the world will have reached unto heaven when the law of God is made void, when the Sabbath of

the Lord is trampled in the dust, and men are compelled to accept in its stead an institution of the papacy through the strong hand of the law of the land. In exalting an institution of man above the institution ordained of God, they show contempt for the great Lawgiver, and refuse His sign or seal." Review and Herald, Nov.5, 1899.

In addition to the above there is also the statement from Testimonies Volume 5:451, where the same truth is expressed as follows, "By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness." To disconnect one's self from righteousness is to come where one can go no further in departing from the living God. This is to fill up the measure of iniquity and guilt and to have one's sins reach unto heaven itself. And when will this be accomplished? It will be accomplished by the making of the decree which will enforce the worship of the

institution of the Papacy which we know to be the enforcement of the Sunday law.

Yet future

It is of course evident that this event is still future. Not yet have the churches secured the power of the law of the land in the United States first of all, to enforce their dogmas. But that time is coming with the utmost certainty and as surely as it comes, then as surely will the fall of Babylon the Great be complete. And then, just so surely will the time have come when the message announcing that fall will ring out under the direction of the angel who lightens the whole earth with his glory. It will go then as a present truth in very fact indeed.

As stated previously in this series, the point of time when the image of the beast is set up is a land mark

indeed. It is a point of time when a stage of committal by both the world and the true church of God is reached from which there can be and will be no turning back. It is a point to which the devil is now developing the apostasy in the churches under his control and it is also a point which the Lord is developing a faithful remnant to fight His battles in that decisive day. These two lines of development will come to the same focal point at the same time. There is but little to be fulfilled before that critical hour is reached.

The one truth above all other which this chapter sets forth is this that the coming of the fall of Babylon the Great brings us to that point of time when the mighty angel of Revelation 18 will begin to sound with a power which will lighten the whole earth with his glory. It must be clear to all that until that point of time is reached when Babylon the Great has actually fully and finally fallen then that message can never be preached.

"I saw angels hurrying to and fro in Heaven, descending to the earth, and again ascending to Heaven, preparing for the fulfilment of some important event. Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which attended this angel penetrated everywhere, as he cried mightily with a strong voice, "Babylon--the Great-- is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.'" The message of the fall of Babylon, as given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844. The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's message, as it swells to a loud cry. And the

people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel's message." Early Writings, p.277.

Then it is plain and clear that the order of events is that, just as soon as the powers of church and state combine to enforce the decrees of the church in respect to the Sunday law, then the fall of Babylon the Great is complete. This will be the signal for the descent of the mighty angel of Revelation 18:1-4, which will be the giving of the final warning, the loud cry of the third angel in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit in the outpouring of the latter rain.

May the Lord of Heaven and earth stir up our souls to pray as we have never prayed before for a moral and spiritual fitness to face that hour when it shall come, to stand on the right side in the whole controversy,

and to be used by the Lord in the finishing of His work.

"We must daily apply to the merits of the blood of a crucified and risen Saviour that we may become vessels fit for the Master's use." Faith & Works, p.86.

CHAPTER 6

A world wide union

Our course of study has now established for us from the prophetic word that the time when the fall of Babylon the Great becomes an established fact, is that point of time when the churches secure the power of the state in the United States of America to enforce the decrees and the dogmas of the church. The decree which will be the special subject of such enforcement will be

the one concerning the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for which there is no scriptural authority whatsoever.

We have seen that this truth is so plainly taught that none need to err in the knowing of it. This thing is coming exactly as prophesied and not one of us can stop it, for the powers that be in church and state are determined upon it, and they will have it as fast as they can gain the opportunity. At any time anyone may find some doubt creeping into the mind in regard to this, then let that one read again the words of Revelation 13:11-18.

So much is stated in the Word of God about this thing appearing in Christendom, and, at the same time from the human point of view, it seems so impossible for this thing to appear among the so-called non-Christian nations, that it is necessary for us to consider this question at this stage of our study, as to how extensive this thing will

be in the world in the end. That is to say, in the restoration of the Beast to power with the establishment of the Image of the Beast, how much of the world is involved? Does this thing appear only in Christendom or does it extend to the non-Christian nations as well? Will Russia, China and the Muslim world also set up an image to the Beast in their countries and enforce the Sunday as an act of homage to the Papacy as will be done in the Christian nations of the world?

Set the Word of God aside and look at the world scene and how swiftly would we declare that it could never happen in such lands as India, China, Arabia and Russia. Look at the manifest hostility, scorn and even open hatred revealed in these nations toward the Christian religion in the world today. So utterly are they opposed to the western nations, who have been losing prestige and standing before them, that one could hardly believe that they ever could or would do homage to the Papacy!

But God sees not as man sees and He knows better than we, the forces which are even now at work in these vast dominions and powers of the earth. God sees and understands long before it even appears that which we neither see nor understand when it is right here with us. But, in His great mercy He has not kept selfishly to Himself that which He has seen and understood of that which we should know for our best good. Plainly He has revealed these things to us in the Word of truth. Ever in the past we have found every such prophetic utterance to be absolutely true and reliable, and from this we can know that in every prophecy as yet unfulfilled, there is the same absolute truth and reliability. When the God of Heaven tells us that it is going to be so, then we just simply know that that is exactly how it is going to be.

The whole world

So we take our unaided eyes off the confusing and discordant world scene, and look instead upon the Word of God and ask the grave question which is before us and in that Word we shall find that nothing less than the whole world will give its allegiance to the Papacy. Every nation, kindred, tongue and people on the face of the whole globe will do this and nothing else. It matters not that witness of sight and circumstances may deny this at the time when this is written. The fact is that the Lord has said that it will be so and therefore that is how it will be. God has spoken, and it is only a matter of time before that which He has spoken will most certainly be fulfilled.

Let us turn to the prophetic word and see the truth of it written there. In Revelation 13:8, after reading of the restoration of the Papacy to power comes this statement, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in

the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

In this verse are brought to view two classes. There are those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, and obviously they are the ones who serve God in spirit and in truth in every nation, kindred, tongue and people. These are the only exceptions given. All the rest of those who dwell on the earth shall worship the beast. In that day we are going to be among the one or the other of those two classes whether we like it or not. Either we shall be among those who have their names written in the book of life and therefore have the power to resist the power of the beast and his image or we shall be worshipers of that beast and his image.

How this will be is made plain from previous verses in the chapter. In verse 4, it is evident that a situation arises wherein the beast is able to make such a display of power as to intimidate the rest of the

world to the place where they say, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" This is but another way of saying that the beast is too powerful to give anyone the slightest hope of victory in any contest with such a power as he. And so it is then that "power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations," verse 7, as a result of which all who dwell upon the earth shall worship him willingly or unwillingly except for those whose names are written in the book of life.

We look upon the world today and we see that the nations of the earth are divided in their attitude to the papal power with the larger proportion of the earth's people in positive open hostility to the Papacy, and we ask as to how it could be that such could come to the place where they would worship this potentate.

But when we look upon that scene as it is today and draw the conclusions

we do, we do it without realizing that our conclusion is dependent upon our holding a certain concept as to what worship is. We naturally think of worship as being a willing thing, of being something that is given because we want to give it. Without a doubt this must be true so far as the worship of the true God is concerned, for it is the only kind of worship acceptable to Him. But it is not true so far as the worship of the Beast and his image is concerned. This is a worship which is forced from the worshiper because the power of the potentate is of such magnitude as to command that worship whether the person desires to give it or not.

For every truth in the New Testament there is a type in the Old and the type of the enforcing of the Sunday worship on the part of modern Babylon is to be found in the enforcement of the worship of the golden image on the plains of Dura in the days of King Nebuchadnezzar. He was the pope of that day and he it was who called the people of every nation to the

worship of his golden image. In Revelation 13, we read that the death penalty hangs over the head of all those who do not worship the Beast and his image. This is but the antitype of the type found in the days of king Nebuchadnezzar, for he threatened with death all those who refused to bow down before the golden image. As it was then so it will be again.

At that time there were gathered the rulers of the people of all the nations of the whole world over which Babylon then had the power. And every one of them was required to worship the power of Babylon under pain of death. Knowing well the spirit of rebellion which dwells in the hearts of the conquered, we can know that many of those who bowed that day bowed, not because they had a mind to worship the golden image, the symbol of the power of Babylon, but because they had a mind not to go in the burning fiery furnace. They worshiped it is true, but not because of any love for Babylon, but because of fear

of her power, and because they were so held in the grip of her power that they had no choice but to obey or to perish. That which has been will be. Therefore the hatred which these nations possess for the Papacy and the western world which protects and fosters the Papacy is not evidence at all in the case for not believing that the papacy will gain the worship of the whole world. She will do it because she will obtain the power to do it. A situation will develop through the power of spiritualism and the power of the United States under the leadership of Apostate Protestantism, which will give back to the Papacy the supremacy of the world.

On the plains of Dura there were two classes of people before that image and two only. They were the people of the whole world who bowed before the image and there were the faithful few, only three in number, who had no fear of the power of Babylon and whose names were written in the book of life. These alone did not bow

before that image, and so it will be again. But a faithful few will know the power of God, and thus will be able to stand against the power of Babylon the Great.

It is the Third Angel who gives the specific warning against receiving the mark in his forehead or in his hand. To whom does he give this warning? The answer must be to those who are in danger of doing the very thing against which this warning is given. It therefore must be that the angel will go wherever the people of the earth are in peril of this thing. If there is no danger to any particular people from this peril, then he will not take the specific warning against the beast and his image to them, but another warning to cover the particular peril in which they stood. That is to say, if, in the last days, Russia and China and Arabia were not going to worship the beast and his image, then there would be no point in warning them against something with which they would never

be faced. Therefore, the third angel would not go to them.

But the third angel does go to them. This is made certain by the word of the prophecy which states that "The third angel followed them," that is, the other two angels. Of the first of the other two it is specifically stated that he goes to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people," with his message. Therefore, if the third angel follows him, it can only be that he too takes his message to every nation, and warns every such people of their danger of worshiping the beast and his image. This can only mean that the beast shall be worshiped by people of every nation, kindred and tongue, otherwise the warning would not go to every such people. If there was to be another test to the people of other lands then a different angel would carry a different warning to them.

Some specific statements

Here now are some specific statements which tell in just so many words that the test will be the same in every part of the world. "As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the Papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honour the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example...Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States. Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon our people in all parts of the earth." Testimonies, vol.6:18,395.

These statements need no comment as their message is too plain to be misunderstood. Along with them goes the following: "History will be repeated. False religion will be exalted. The first day of the week, a common working day, possessing no sanctity whatsoever, will be set up as was the image at Babylon. All nations and tongues and peoples will

be commanded to worship this spurious sabbath. This is Satan's plan to make of no account the day instituted by God and given to all the world as a memorial of creation. The decree enforcing the worship of this day is to go forth to all the world. Trial and persecution will come to all who, in obedience to the Word of God, refuse to worship this false sabbath. Force is the last resort of every false religion. At first it tries attraction, as the king of Babylon tried the power of music and outward show. If these attractions, invented by men inspired by Satan, fail to make men worship the image, the hungry flames of the furnace were ready to consume them. So it will be now. The papacy has exercised her power to compel men to obey her, and she will continue to do so. We need the same spirit that was manifested by God's servants in the conflict with paganism." Signs of the Times, May 6, 1897.

"The world is filled with storm and war and variance. Yet under one head,

the papal power, the people will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses." Testimonies, vol.7, 182.

Inasmuch as the subject matter of this statement is the world, then the people will unite, even though they now are at war and variance with each other. They will have one head and that will be the papal head, Babylon the Great.

Thus, "There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces... In the warfare to be waged in the last days, there will be united in opposition to God's people all the corrupt powers that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah." Manuscript 24, 1891.

These statements leave no doubt whatsoever as to the fact that the same image to the beast will be made in every other land, as it will be in America. It leaves no doubt but that Russia and China and the Muslim

nations will be among those nations who will join in this last great apostasy, not so much because they have a mind to do it, but because they will have a mind to escape the punishment that Babylon will surely inflict on all those who do not submit to her authority. They will do it, not because they want to, but because, not having the power of God in them as did Meshak, Shadrack and Abednego, they will have nothing with which to resist and overcome the power of Babylon the Great.

They will do it because they will have no choice but to do it or to perish. But should it be that there are still some who cannot accept that China and India for instance, will bow to the papal power, then here is a statement actually naming these two lands as countries where the test of the beast and his image will be imposed upon the people. Let us read it now:

"Among earth's inhabitants, scattered in every land, there are those who

have not bowed the knee to Baal. Like the stars of heaven, which appear only at night, these faithful ones will shine forth when darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people. In heathen Africa, in the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, in China, In India, in the islands of the sea, and in all the dark corners of the earth, God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness, revealing clearly to an apostate world the transforming power of obedience to His law. Even now they are appearing in every nation, among every tongue and people; and in the hour of deepest apostasy, when Satan's supreme effort is made to cause 'all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond' to receive, under penalty of death, the sign of allegiance to a false rest day, these faithful ones, 'blameless and harmless, the sons of God without rebuke,' will 'shine as lights in the world.' Revelation 13:16; Phil.2:15... The darker the night the

more brilliantly will they shine."
P.K.188-189.

Read the statement over very carefully and it is then to be seen how plainly it teaches that Babylon the Great will seek to force all in all parts of the world to worship the false day of rest as Nebuchadnezzar sought to have the peoples of all nations worship the image in his day. The test will come right to them where they are.

On to the end

Thus the fall of Babylon the Great begins in the United States first of all, but, what is done there is but the beginning of a wave to sweep around the entire world until every nation and every kindred and every tongue and every people have followed in her train until there is not one power of church or state but has given themselves over to the worship of the beast and his image. As this

thing spreads rapidly across the world there will very shortly come a time when the last power of earth shall join that vast confederacy of evil to take its part in the one universal bond of union against the God of Heaven.

When that comes, then the close of probation will also come. Beyond that point of time, there will be no more day of grace for anyone. Then it is that the God of Heaven will rise in vengeance and the plagues of Babylon will be poured out without measure into the cup of indignation. "The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by mere human authority, of Sunday in the place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity and the earth shall disclose her blood and no

more cover her slain." Testimonies
vol.7, 141.

"It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world has shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would, He will withdraw His blessing from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same... Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old." G.C.589,614.

It is coming, surely coming upon the earth, this one, last, vast universal bond of allegiance to the papal power. Those alone will have the

power to stand then who have their name written in the Lamb's book of life. We know that it is coming upon the earth and upon the people of God. It is coming. The time has been long delayed but it will come as surely as the night follows the day. Today is the day of preparation.

"The storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father?" RH Vol.4, p.242. For, "The only condition upon which man's freedom is possible is that of becoming one with Christ." Desire of Ages, p.466. John 17:21,22,26.

"Every sinner must have virtue that he does not possess by himself. Our door-post must be marked by the atoning blood, thus acknowledging our own inefficiency and the merits of the Lamb of God." Signs of the Times, Vol.2, p.228.

◇ The End ◇

