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'THE FAITH ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS'

BY Pastor Stephen Bohr

LESSON #1 - A LAYERED APPROACH TO DANIEL 2, DANIEL 7, AND REVELATION 12, 13, 17

Principles of Interpretation

Before we can even begin to decode the complex meaning of Daniel and Revelation's symbols, we must lay out some basic hermeneutical principles.

✓ **Principle #1:**

Although it is difficult to set aside our preconceived ideas and biases, we must pray that God will enable us to study these books with an open mind.

The apostle Paul admonished us in 1 Thessalonians 5:21 to "test all things" and to "hold fast to what is good".

Jesus added in John 7:17:

"If anyone wills to do [obey] His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority."

✓ **Principle #2:**

Daniel and Revelation are written in coded language and in order to understand them we must decode the meaning of the symbols. Sometimes the symbols are explained in the immediate context of the passage in review, (cf. Daniel 2:39; Revelation 17:15) and at other times, elsewhere in Scripture.

However, decoding the meaning of individual symbols is **not sufficient**. After we have deciphered the meaning of each individual symbol in the passage under review, we must **piece them together**. Each symbol is like a piece of a **jigsaw puzzle** and only when we assemble the pieces can we understand the full meaning of the passage.

✓ **Principle #3:**

The Seventh-day Adventist method of prophetic interpretation is founded on the principle of **historicism**. This method teaches that the great **chain prophecies** of Daniel 2, 7, 8-9, 11, Revelation 12, 13, 17, as well as the seven churches, seven seals, and seven trumpets begin their fulfillment in the days when the prophet wrote and then describe a sequential series of events that culminate with the final movements of human history.

✓ **Principle #4:**

The prophecies of Daniel 2 and 7 and Revelation 12, 13, and 17 cover the **same ground**. We know this because there are numerous **verbal** and **conceptual links** that connect them. Because of this, it is not sufficient to study each of these prophecies **isolated from the rest**, but rather together. The principle at play is that Daniel 7 **expands** the prophecy of Daniel 2 and Revelation 12, 13 and 17 expand upon Daniel 2 and 7. This is what I refer to as a **layered approach** to the chain prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.

Each of these prophecies contain the **number ten**, and the last human kingdom is **always different** than the rest. Also, Daniel 7 and Revelation 12, 13 contain **beasts** with seven heads and **ten horns** who **persecute** God's people for the same period of time. Although the prophecy of Revelation 17 also has a seven-headed and ten-horned beast that persecutes the faithful, it does not specify how long the persecution will last because after 1844 prophetic time is no longer (Revelation 10:6).

Revelation Complements Daniel

Ellen White underlined the importance of studying Daniel and Revelation together and explained that Revelation expands upon the prophecies of Daniel with a special focus on the end time:

"The things revealed to Daniel were afterward complemented by the revelation made to John on the Isle of Patmos. These two books should be carefully studied... It was the Lion of the tribe of Judah [Jesus—Revelation 1:1, 2] who unsealed the book [particularly Daniel 8-12; cf. Revelation 22:10] and gave to John the revelation of what should be in these last days. The book of Daniel [particularly chapters 8-12] is unsealed in the revelation to John, and [the revelation to John] carries us forward to the last scenes of this earth's history." TM, pp. 114, 115

"In the Revelation all the books of the Bible meet and end. Here is the complement of the book of Daniel. One is a prophecy; the other a revelation. The book that was sealed [Daniel 12:4] is not the Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel [chapters 8-12] relating to the last days." AA, p. 467

The words 'complement' and 'complemented' in these quotations mean '*fullness or completion*'. That is, the book of Daniel does not tell the whole story about end time events. It is incomplete without its complement much like Adam was incomplete without Eve. Therefore, the book of Revelation expands upon, completes and gives the full picture of the prophecies of Daniel. The following examples from Ellen White's writings explain her understanding of the words 'complemented' and 'complement':

- ✓ Philip Melanchthon complemented the work of Luther:

Melanchthon's "gentleness, caution, and exactness serving as a complement to Luther's courage and energy." GC, p. 134

- ✓ The prophecy of 2 Thessalonians 2 complements Daniel 7:25:

"One prophecy [2 Thessalonians 2] is a complement of the other [Daniel 7:25]. Only by changing God's law [Daniel 7:25] could the papacy exalt itself above God; [2 Thessalonians 2] whoever should understandingly

keep the law as thus changed would be giving supreme honor to that power by which the change was made." GC, p. 446

- ✓ The **wife** should be a complement to her husband:

*"The husband and wife can so **blend** in labor that the wife shall be the **complement** of the husband." Pastoral Ministry, p.76*

- ✓ **Law and grace** complement each other:

*"The law and the gospel go hand in hand. The one is the **complement** of the other. The law without faith in the gospel of Christ cannot save the transgressor of law. The gospel without the law is inefficient and powerless. The law and the gospel are a **perfect whole**." Our High Calling p. 135*

An Initial Example of the Expansion Principle

Not only does Revelation expand upon Daniel, but also each successive chain prophecy in our purview expands upon the previous ones. Here is **one example** that illustrates how Revelation 13 expands the prophecy of Revelation 12. **Revelation 12:13-17** contains **three** successive items that follow the same pattern in the same order:

DRAGON (12:13-15) — EARTH (12:16) — DRAGON (12:17)

- 1) Revelation 12:13-15: A **DRAGON** with **seven** heads and **ten** horns **persecuted** the woman for '**time, times and half a time**' (Revelation 12:13-15).
- 2) Revelation 12:16: Toward the end of the '**time, times and half a time**', the **EARTH** helped the woman (Revelation 12:16) by swallowing up the persecuting waters that the **seven-headed, ten-horned** dragon spewed out of **one** of its mouths (the persecuting waters upon which the harlot sits—Revelation 17:1, 15).
- 3) Revelation 12:17: Because the earth helped the woman, the same **seven-headed** and **ten-horned DRAGON** was enraged against the remnant of the woman's SEED. This resulted in a **second period** of persecution by the same dragon and the length of the period is not specified.

Revelation 13 contains the identical **three items** in the **same order**:

DRAGON (13:5, 7) — EARTH (13:11) — DRAGON (13:11-18)

- 1)** Revelation 13:1, 2, 5, 7: A **seven**-headed, **ten** horned sea **BEAST** (who received its throne, power and authority **from** the **same dragon** of the previous chapter Revelation 13:1,2) persecuted the woman who bore the male child for '*forty-two months*'
- 2)** Revelation 13:11: Another beast arose from the **EARTH**, the territory that helped the woman, and the beast had **two horns** like a lamb.
- 3)** Revelation 13:11: The beast that arose from the earth then spoke and acted like the **DRAGON** of Revelation 12:17. This resulted in a **second** and future stage of persecution also with an unspecified length (Revelation 13:12-18).

Rome: A Chain of Authority

The **seven**-headed, **ten**-horned **DRAGON** who attempted **to kill** the man child (Revelation 12:3) **delegated** its throne, power and authority to a **seven**-headed, **ten**-horned **beast** that rose from the sea (Revelation 13:2). This beast then carried on the work that the dragon delegated to it for the same period of time—42 months. Thus, the **Roman empire delegated** its kingdom **to the papacy** and the papacy continued the dragon's work. Remarkably, the sea beast did not have to conquer the dragon power but rather received its marching orders from it. In other words, The Roman kingdom delegated its authority to the papacy.

After the sea beast recovered from its mortal wound (Revelation 13:3), the **seven-headed** and **ten-horned** sea beast then **delegated** its authority to the beast that rose from the earth (Revelation 13:12). In other words, the papacy delegated its power to the United States to do its work.

We see here an **unbroken chain** of authority moving from the Roman empire **dragon**, to the papal Roman **beast** to the apostate Protestant beast **from the earth** who does the bidding of the dragon. Each of these beasts **hands off** the baton to the next power and they all continue the authority of Rome.

It is important to remember that Revelation 12 and 13 describe **three periods** of persecution all by the same dragon beast and its surrogates, two in the **past** (Revelation 12:13-15; 13:5, 7) and one in the **future** (Revelation 12:17; 13:11-18; cf. Matthew 24:9, 21-24):

- ✓ **Past:** Persecution against the male child.
- ✓ **Past:** Persecution against the woman.
- ✓ **Future:** Persecution against the remnant of the woman's SEED,

Thus, Ellen White wrote:

*"It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who **shall be alive** upon the earth when celestial glory and a **repetition** of the persecutions of the **past** are blended."* *9T*, p. 16

The Prophecy of Daniel 2

The prophecies of Daniel 7, Revelation 12, 13, and 17 all **build** upon and **complement** and supplement the prophecy of **Daniel 2**. That is, Daniel 2 provides the basic 'skeletal outline' that lies at **the foundation** of all the other chain prophecies. So, let's briefly review the sequence of powers in Daniel 2:

- ✓ Head of **gold** (the kingdom of Babylon 605-539 BC).
- ✓ Chest and arms of **silver** (the kingdom of Medes/Persians 539-331 BC).
- ✓ Belly and thighs of **bronze** (the kingdom of Greece 331-168 BC).
- ✓ Legs of **iron** (the kingdom of Rome 168 BC-476 AD).
- ✓ The **iron** in the feet and toes (the divided kingdom of Rome 476-538 AD).
- ✓ Clay added to the iron in the feet and toes (an illegitimate mingling of civil and religious Rome: 538-1798 AD):

*"The mingling of **churchcraft** and **statecraft** is represented by the **iron and the clay**. This union is weakening all the power of the churches. This investing the **church with the power of the state** will bring evil results. Men have almost passed the point of God's forbearance. They have invested their **strength in politics**, and have **united with the papacy**. But the time*

will come when God will punish those who have made void His law, and their evil work will recoil upon themselves." 4BC, p. 1168

- ✓ The **Rock strikes** the image on the feet and toes (the judgment)
- ✓ The Rock becomes **a mountain** that fills the whole earth (God's everlasting kingdom).

We must remember that Daniel 2 contains only a very **basic survey** of events between the kingdom of **Babylon** in 605 BC and the **end time**. In other words, Daniel 2 does not give us the whole story.

Daniel 2 portrays the mingling of iron and clay in the feet and ten toes as the **last human kingdom** before the second coming of Jesus. However, in its concise overview, the chapter does not **explain** that the union of iron and clay in the feet and toes covers **two** periods, one **past** and the other **future**, with a significant time **interval** in between. This will become clearer when we study the expansion of Daniel 2 in Revelation 12, 13 and 17.

Missing Details in Daniel 2

There are many details that are absent in Daniel 2 but present in Daniel 7:

- ✓ Daniel 2 describes the **first three** kingdoms in only **one and a half verses** with very few details. Therefore, we would expect a further expansion at some point!
- ✓ Daniel 2 only **hints** that the fourth kingdom will have **three successive stages** (the iron legs, the iron in the feet and toes and the addition of the clay to the iron). Daniel 7 will expand upon these three successive stages.
- ✓ Daniel 2 does not mention that during the **third stage** of Rome (the mingling of iron and clay in the feet and toes), a power would rise to speak **blasphemies** against God, **persecute** His saints and think to change His **Law**.
- ✓ Daniel 2 does not mention that the mingling of iron and clay in the feet and toes would have **two stages**, one past and the other future with a significant time **interval** in between.

- ✓ Daniel 2 does not explain **how long** the **first stage** of the mingling of iron and clay in the feet and toes would last.
- ✓ Daniel 2 does not fully explain that there would be an investigative judgment **before** Christ sets up His everlasting kingdom (although **the stone** that becomes a mountain does give us a hint).

It cannot be overemphasized that Daniel 7, Revelation 12, 13, and 17 are **parallel** prophecies that expand upon the prophecy of Daniel 2. Therefore, only as we study these prophecies **together** will we be able to understand the full and **detailed picture** of end time events. So to speak, the prophecy of Daniel 2 is like a **skeleton** to which we need to add **organs, flesh** and **skin**.

The Expansion of Daniel 2 in Daniel 7

Daniel 7, like Daniel 2, describes the **same order** of kingdoms that would rule the world from the days of **Babylon** till the **end**. However, Daniel 7 adds significant **details** not present in Daniel 2.

Like Daniel 2, Daniel 7:2-6 describes the first **three kingdoms** that would rule the earth **before** the **birth of Christ** but with expanded details. Instead of metals, Daniel 7 uses beasts:

- ✓ A **LION**: The kingdom of Babylon: Equivalent to the **head of gold** in Daniel 2 (605-539 BC).

Expansion: The **lion** has **eagle's** wings (Daniel 7:4) and after a time, the wings are **plucked**, the lion stands on **two legs**, and is given the **heart** of a man.

- ✓ A **BEAR**: The kingdom of Medes and Persians: Equivalent to the **chest and arms of silver** in Daniel 2 (539-331 BC).

Expansion: The bear was higher on **one side** than the other with **three ribs** in its mouth and it was commanded to eat much flesh (Daniel 7:5).

- ✓ A **LEOPARD**: The kingdom of Greece: Parallel to the **belly of bronze** in Daniel 2 (331-168 BC).

Expansion: The leopard had **four wings** of a bird, and **four heads** (Daniel 7:6).

If we only had Daniel 7 we might conclude that Greece already had four divisions when it first rose to power. However, the expansion in Daniel 8 reveals that the kingdom of Greece had two stages. The first was the united Grecian Empire during the reign of Alexander the Great (the notable horn) and the second was the fourfold division of the kingdom after Alexander's death (the four horns).

Daniel 7:7, 19 describes the fourth kingdom as a dragon beast which represents the Roman Empire. The dragon is parallel to the legs of iron in Daniel 2. The prophecy points out that the dragon would rule in three successive stages (168 BC –1798 AD). Our study will reveal that neither the ten horns nor the little horn were on the dragon in the first stage of its rule. The ten horns and little horn came out later.

The three stages of the fourth beast in Daniel 7 are equivalent to the **[1] iron legs**, the **[2] iron** in the **feet and toes** and **[3] the clay mingled with the iron** in Daniel 2.

Daniel 7:23, 24:

*"Thus he said, 'The **fourth beast** shall be a **[1] fourth kingdom** on earth, which shall be different from all the other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.²⁴ The **ten horns** are ten kings who shall arise **[2] from this kingdom**. And **another** shall rise **[3] after them**; He shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings."*

✓ **Stage #1 of the fourth beast: The united Roman Empire**

Daniel 7 portrays the first stage of Rome as a dragon with seven heads and ten horns rising from the sea (Daniel 7:3). A careful reading of Daniel 7:24 indicates that the dragon did not have the ten horns when it first rose to power (cf. the leopard). The first stage lasted for close to six and a half centuries from 168 BC to 476 AD).

Expansion of stage #1:

Daniel 7 expands the prophecy of Daniel 2 by describing a dragon beast rising from the sea (Daniel 7:3) that was 'exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron [like the legs of iron] and its nails of bronze, which

devoured **broke in pieces**, and **trampled** the residue with its feet' (Daniel 7:19). We find no such scary description of the fourth kingdom in Daniel 2.

✓ **Stage #2 of the fourth beast: The divided Roman Empire:**

History shows that the ten horns came forth from the head of the seven-headed dragon six and a half centuries after the kingdom first rose to power. The **ten horns** of Daniel 7 are parallel to the iron that continued in the **feet** and **ten** toes (476-538 AD) in Daniel 2.

Expansion of stage #2:

Daniel 7 expands upon the **ten toes** of the image. History tells us that after Rome had ruled as an undivided kingdom for six and a half centuries, the barbarians **carved it up** into ten divisions which are the nations of Europe today (476-538 DC).

In Daniel 2 the iron of the legs exists also in the feet and toes. Likewise, in Daniel 7 Rome continues in the ten horns because they are not independent from the dragon but rather rise from it.

✓ **Stage #3 of the fourth beast: Papal Rome**

According to Daniel 2, a **different element** was added to the iron in the feet and toes, with part of the mixture being **weak** and the other **strong** (Daniel 2:42). The strong element was the **iron** (Daniel 2:41) and the weak was the **clay**. Therefore, after the fragmentation of the Roman Empire, we must find a kingdom in history that mingled two elements that **do not belong** together, one strong and the other weak.

The **strong** iron element represents civil power of Rome (cf. the 'iron monarchy of Rome') and the weak element is the apostate church that mingled with the civil power. Ellen White explained this **illegitimate union** in the end time as the apostate Protestant churches appealing to 'the **strong** arm of civil power':

*"The **church** appeals to the **strong arm of civil power**, and in this work, papists and Protestants unite." **GC**, p. 607*

The iron and clay each have a **legitimate function** and are useful separately. However, when the church **mingles** with the civil power it becomes weak. Ellen White described the union of the papacy with the civil power of Rome, as '*the roman element*' (GC, p. 581)

The little horn of Daniel 7 is equivalent to the **clay that was added** to the iron in the feet and toes (538-1798 AD). We know for certain that the clay was **added** to the iron in the feet and toes later, because Daniel 7:23,24 tells us that the little horn rose to power **after** the hornless dragon had ruled for a certain period and **after** the ten horns had come forth from its head. History proves that the **Roman Catholic papacy** did indeed mingle **church and state** and rose to power after the rule of the Roman Empire and its divisions.

In the final expansion of Daniel 2, **Revelation 17** will describe this same mingling of iron and clay but with different symbolism. The **harlot**, symbolizing an apostate church, is equivalent to the clay and the **kings of Europe** in the **past** and the kings of the earth and the whole world in the **future** (the state) are equivalent to the iron (Revelation 16:13, 14; 17:12-14, 17). The fornication of the harlot with the kings of the earth is just as illegitimate as the union of iron and clay (Revelation 17:1, 2).

Expansion of stage #3:

A nasty little horn rose **out of** the head of the dragon, **among** the ten and **after** them. This horn is Roman because it rose from the head of the fourth beast. The horn is a religious/political power because it speaks **great words** against the Most High, **persecutes** the saints of the Most High, intends to **change God's law**, and rules for a '**time, times, and half a time**' (Daniel 7:25).

The first four kingdoms in Daniel 2 and 7 (the lion, the bear, the leopard, and the dragon with ten horns, are portrayed as mere **secular** kingdoms. There is no mention of **religious activities**. However, the little horn not only appropriated the political power of Rome (the iron) but also performed religious activities (the clay).

The clay in the feet and toes is **different** from all the previous powers because it is **not a metal**. Likewise, the little horn in Daniel 7 is **different** because it is not a mere **secular** kingdom but also a **religious** one.

Elements Missing from Daniel 7

- ✓ Daniel 7 does not explain **why the little horn hated** the saints and persecuted them. This detail will be added in Revelation 12:17.
- ✓ Daniel 7 tells us that the little horn intended to **change** the law, not to **abolish** it. So, we are left with the question: In what sense did the little horn attempt to **change** God's law?
- ✓ Neither Daniel 2 or 7 explain that the little horn received a **deadly wound** at the conclusion of the '*time, times and half a time*', that the deadly wound **will heal** and that the little horn will rule once more as it did in the past.
- ✓ Neither do Daniel 2 or 7 explain **who** will heal the wound and **how**.
- ✓ Neither Daniel 2 or 7 explain that when the wound heals, the little horn will establish a **ruthless global dominion** greater than the one during the '*time, times and half a time*'.
- ✓ The prophecy of Daniel 7 says **nothing** about a **woman** who was about to bear a **man child** during the first stage of the dragon, that the dragon would attempt **to kill** him and that the child would **ascend victoriously** to God and to His throne. This expansion will come in Revelation 12.

Revelation 12: The Expansion of Genesis 3:15 and Daniel 7

Revelation 12 follows the **same** timeline as Daniel 7 with special emphasis on events that transpired during the fourth kingdom. Like Daniel 7, Revelation 12 describes a **dragon** with **seven heads** and **ten horns** (Revelation 12:3) who **persecuted** the woman for '*time, times and the dividing of time*' (Revelation 12:14) or 1260 days/years (Revelation 12:6). Absent, however, from Daniel 7 but present in Revelation 12 is the dragon's war against the woman's SEED and the SEED'S victory during the first stage of the fourth kingdom.

Thus, besides expanding upon the prophecies of Daniel 2 and 7, Revelation 12 **expands** the prophecy of **Genesis 3:15**. The question is, why does Revelation 12 insert and expand Genesis 3:15? For two reasons. First, because Genesis 3:15 was fulfilled during the first stage of the fourth kingdom. Second, because Revelation 12 points out that the dragon's rage against the woman was due to the fact that he lost the battle with the woman's SEED (Revelation 12:3, 4)!

Ellen White explained the link between the dragon's defeat and his rage against the woman:

*"They [Satan and his angels] had prevailed **nothing against Christ** but must overthrow **His followers**, if possible. In every generation they must seek to ensnare those who would believe in Jesus. He related to his angels that Jesus had given His disciples power to rebuke them and cast them out, and to heal those whom they should afflict. Then Satan's angels went forth like **roaring lions**, seeking to destroy the **followers of Jesus**."* EW pp. 191, 192

Shortly after Adam and Eve sinned, God warned the serpent that He would send a SEED to give him a deathblow in order to redeem their failure:

Genesis 3:15:

*"And I will put [1] **enmity** between [2] **you** and the [3] **woman**, and between your [4] **seed** and [5] her **Seed**; He [the woman's Seed] shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise [the woman's Seed] His heel."*

Genesis 3:15 contains five elements that recur in Revelation 12:

- ✓ Enmity.
- ✓ A serpent (later identified also as the dragon).
- ✓ The serpent's seed.
- ✓ The woman.
- ✓ The woman's SEED.

Three Sequential Enmities

The enmity in Genesis 3:15 and Revelation 12 moves in **three successive stages**:

- ✓ The first stage is the war of the seven-headed serpent/dragon against the woman's **SEED** and the SEED'S victory (Revelation 12:1-5, 10-12; cf. John 12:30-33; Luke 10:18).
- ✓ The second stage is the enmity of the seven-headed serpent/dragon against the **woman** (Revelation 12:6, 13-15). When the woman's SEED wounded the serpent/dragon's head on the cross (John 12:30-33), and was caught up to God and to His throne, the serpent/dragon launched an attack against the woman for '*time, times and half a time*' as revenge!
- ✓ After the **earth helped** the woman by swallowing up the persecuting waters, the serpent/dragon launched a final attack against the end time **remnant** of the woman's SEED (Revelation 12:17).

In summary:

The woman was not the primary target of the serpent/dragon's **rage**. His deadly enemy was the SEED who would crush his head. When the woman's SEED **survived** the serpent/dragon's bite to His heel and crushed his head, the serpent/dragon went after **the woman**. Finally, after the earth helped the woman, the serpent/dragon launched an attack on the remnant of the woman's SEED. Thus, Revelation 12 presents **the following order** in this ongoing war:

- ✓ The enmity of the serpent/dragon against the **woman's SEED** and the SEED'S heavenly victory celebration (Revelation 12:1-5, 10-12).
- ✓ The enmity of the serpent/dragon against the **woman** for '*time, times and half a time*' (Revelation 12:6, 13-15).
- ✓ The enmity of the serpent/dragon against the final **remnant** of the **woman's SEED** (Revelation 12:17).

The Six Stages of Revelation 12

As stated before, Revelation 12 not only fulfills and expands the prophecy of **Genesis 3:15** but also **adds** details that are not in Daniel 2 or 7. Chapter 12 contains the same **seven-headed dragon** with **ten horns** as Daniel 7, and also the '*time and times and half a time*' that the little horn **persecuted** the faithful (Revelation 12:14). But there is so **much more!** Revelation 12 describes **six consecutive** historical stages as well as the five elements of Genesis 3:15.

Stage #1: The period before Christ's birth:

The vision of Revelation 12 does not mention the **first three beasts** of Daniel 7 (Babylon, Medes and Persians and Greece) because the focus of the chapter is on events that occurred after the man child was born during the first stage of the fourth kingdom and on the period when the dragon persecuted the woman for '*time, times and half a time*'. Nevertheless, like Daniel 7, the fulfillment of the vision of Revelation 12 began long before Jesus was born. It goes without saying that the mother precedes the birth of her SEED.

Element #1 of Genesis 3:15: The woman:

Revelation 12:1

*"Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a **woman** clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of **twelve** stars."*

It is common knowledge that a pure **woman** in Bible prophecy symbolizes the **faithful church**. As pointed out before, the virtuous woman of Revelation 12 existed long before the man child was born. This means that the woman symbolizes the faithful Old Testament Church. This interpretation is proved true by the fact that the woman had a **crown** of twelve stars on her head. At this stage the stars represent the **twelve patriarchs** who were foundational to the Old Testament Church (cf. Genesis 37:9). However, when the woman later fled to the wilderness for '*time, times and half a time*', the twelve stars are symbolic of the twelve apostles who founded the New Testament Church (cf. Ephesians 2:19-21). Thus, Ellen White wrote:

*"As in the Old Testament the **twelve** patriarchs stood as representatives of Israel, so the **twelve** apostles stand as representatives of the gospel church." AA, p. 16*

Element #2 of Genesis 3:15: The SEED in the woman's womb:

Revelation 12:2:

*"Then being **with child**, she cried out **in labor** and in pain to give birth."*

As noted before, when John saw the woman in verse 2, the Child had not yet been born. Obviously, this means that the woman precedes the birth of the Child. Verse 5 identifies the Child as **Jesus**, who, after his victory over the serpent/dragon, was caught up to God's throne (cf. Revelation 3:21). Clearly,

the woman initially represents the faithful **Old Testament** church. It is literally true that Jesus was born from the lineage of the Old Testament Church. After all, He was of the lineage of **Abraham** and **David** (Matthew 1:1).

Element #3 of Genesis 3:15: The dragon or ancient serpent (cf. Revelation 12:9):

Revelation 12:3:

*“And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a **great** fiery **red dragon** [described as the **ancient serpent** in verse 9] having seven heads and **ten horns**, and seven diadems on his heads.”*

The serpent is referred to as ‘**ancient**’, linking it with Genesis 3:15. When Jesus was about to be born, the serpent/dragon was waiting in the wings. Clearly, Satan, as a student of Bible prophecy knew approximately **when** and **where** the SEED would be born.

Element #4 of Genesis 3:15: The dragon's enmity against the woman's **SEED:**

Revelation 12:4:

*“His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to **devour her Child** [enmity] as soon **as it was born**.”*

Stage #2: When the child was born, the serpent/dragon sought to kill Him. This begins the **New Testament period:**

Revelation 12:5:

*“She **bore** a **male Child** who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron . . .”*

Element #5 of Genesis 3:15: Herod was the **dragon's seed.**

Matthew 2:16:

As we have indicated before, the **primary hatred** of the dragon was not against the woman, but against her **SEED**. The serpent/dragon did not **act personally** and **directly** to destroy the Child but rather through his seed, Herod the Great (cf. John 8:44; 1 John 3:12):

"Then Herod when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men."

Ellen White linked the rage of the dragon against the Child with the actions of Herod, the dragon's seed:

"The line of prophecy in which these symbols are found begins with Revelation 12, with the dragon that sought to destroy Christ at His birth. The dragon is said to be Satan (Revelation 12:9); he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Savior to death. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the first centuries of the Christian Era was the Roman Empire, in which paganism was the prevailing religion. Thus while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome." GC, p. 538

Ellen White explained that civil rulers are the dragon, in a derived sense:

"Kings and rulers and governors have placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist, and are represented as the dragon who goes to make war with the saints—with those who keep the commandments of God and who have the faith of Jesus." TM, p. 39

The male Child grew up, defeated the dragon, and ascended to His Father's throne during the first stage of the Roman Empire (cf. Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 3:21):

Revelation 12:5:

"She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne (cf. Revelation 3:21)."

Stage #3: The Roman Empire was divided into ten kingdoms (the toes of Daniel 2 and the ten horns of Daniel 7):

Revelation 12:3:

"And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads."

Although it might appear that the ten horns were already on the serpent/dragon's head when Jesus was about to be born, Daniel 7:23, 24 and history, make it clear that the horns rose from the head much later when the empire was divided. Like the leopard in Daniel 7 and the earth beast in Revelation 13:11, the composite view is given first and then each part is explained in succession.

Stage #4: Papal Rome: Persecution of the woman for 'time, times and the half a time':

When the woman's SEED recovered from the serpent's bite and ascended to His Father's throne, the serpent/dragon was filled with rage against the woman who had borne the male child. Daniel 7 compared to Revelation 12:6, 14 explains that the dragon manifested his wrath against the woman through his seed or deputy, the little horn. Thus, the little horn is described as the persecuting dragon of Revelation 12.

Revelation 12:6:

"Then the [1] woman fled into the [2] wilderness, where she has a [#3] place prepared by God, that they should [#4] feed her there [#5] one thousand two hundred and sixty days."

The five elements in Revelation 12:6:

- ✓ Woman
- ✓ Wilderness
- ✓ Place prepared
- ✓ Feed her
- ✓ 1260 days

Revelation 12:14 explains that 'time, times and half a time' is the same as 1260 days in verse 6. The 'time, times and half a time' link the prophecy of Revelation 12 with Daniel 7:25.

Revelation 12:13, 14

Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he [the dragon] persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. But the [1] woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the [2] wilderness

*to her [3] **place**, where she is [4] **nourished** for [5] **a time and times and half a time**, from the presence of the serpent.”*

- ✓ Woman
- ✓ Wilderness
- ✓ Place
- ✓ Nourished
- ✓ Three and a half times

One Head at a Time

Revelation 12:15:

*“So the **serpent [that had seven heads]** spewed water out of his **mouth [just one]** like a **flood** after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.”*

One fact has often been overlooked in the study of Revelation 12. Although the dragon of Revelation 12:3 has seven heads and ten horns, only one of the heads spewed out water for “*a time times and half a time*” in an attempt to drown the woman. This means that the seven heads did not rule simultaneously but consecutively. The evidence seems to indicate that the seven heads represent seven successive kingdoms that ruled the world beginning with literal Babylon and ending with spiritual Babylon, the papacy (cf. Revelation 17:1-6).

John N. Andrews, arguably the ablest scholar in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, had this to say about the three seven headed beasts of Revelation 12, 13 and 17:

*“The seven heads are **seven forms of civil power** which **successively** bear rule. These seven heads belong alike to the **dragon** of Revelation 12, the **beast** of chapter 13, and **that of** Revelation 17. This shows **conclusively** that the dragon and these two beasts are symbols of the **same power under different heads**; for there are not three sets of seven heads, but it is evident that the heads are **successive forms** of its power, **one of them bearing rule at a time**, and then giving place to another (Revelation 17:9, 10). The proper period of each seems to be this: The dragon **before** the 1260 years, the beast of chapter 13 **during** that period, and the beast of chapter 17 **since** the deadly wound and captivity at the*

close of that period.” (J. N. Andrews, The Three Messages of Revelation XIV, 6-12, pp. 77, 78.

When the papacy ruled for ‘*time, times and half a time*’, the first four of the seven heads had already spewed out persecuting water and had dried up—Babylon, Medes and Persians, Greece and Rome. Thus, it was the **fifth head alone** that was spewing out persecuting waters after the woman during the ‘*time, times and half a time*’.

We shall soon see that the sea beast of **Revelation 13:1-10** (the same power as the dragon that persecuted the woman in Revelation 12 and the little horn of Daniel 7) received a mortal wound on only **one** of its heads at the conclusion of the ‘*time, times and half a time*’ (Revelation 13:3). Clearly, the head that was wounded was the same that had spewed out the persecuting waters during the ‘*time, times and half a time*’.

What is symbolized by the waters that the dragon spewed out of his mouth for ‘*time, times and half a time*’? Revelation 17:15 has the answer:

Revelation 17:15 (cf. Isaiah 17:12,13):

“Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.”

Stage #5: The earth provided refuge for the woman by swallowing up the persecuting waters:

Revelation 12:16:

“But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.”

When it **appeared** like the persecuting waters would drown the woman, a **territory** (not a nation yet) provided refuge for her. Out of this territory would **later grow** a mighty nation, the United States. The territory of what would later become the United States did indeed provide freedom for the persecuted ones in Europe. The **pilgrims** came to north America and found refuge from papal persecution:

*"It was the desire for **liberty of conscience** that inspired the Pilgrims to brave the perils of the long journey across the sea, to endure the hardships and dangers of the wilderness, and with God's blessing to lay, on the **shores of America**, the foundation of a **mighty nation.**" GC, p. 292*

Historians describe the rise of the United States as a nation in similar fashion as Revelation 12:16:

*"A prominent writer, describing the rise of the United States, speaks of "the **mystery** of her coming forth **from vacancy**" and says: "Like a silent seed we **grew into empire**." G. A. Townsend, The New World Compared with the Old, page 462. A European journal in 1850 spoke of the United States as **a wonderful empire**, which was "emerging," and "amid the **silence of the earth** daily adding to its power and pride." The Dublin Nation." GC, p. 440*

The Conjunction 'kai'

Every verse in Revelation 12:13-17 begins with the **conjunction kai** which describes a **chain of events** one following the other. The **KJV** uniformly translates the word *kai* in these verses with the English conjunction '**and**'. However, other versions translate the conjunction *kai* differently depending on the context. For example, the **NKJV** translates it this way:

"Now [kai linked with what happened in the previous verses] when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth [when Christ died on the cross—John 12:30-33; Revelation 12:10-12], he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. ¹⁴ **But [kai, 'in order to escape'] the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness [the Piedmont valleys] to her place, where she is nourished for **a time and times and half a time**, from the presence of the serpent. ¹⁵ **So [kai, when she was escaping]** the serpent **spewed water** out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶ **But [kai]** the **earth helped** [came to the rescue] the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ **And [kai, because the earth had helped the woman]** the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring ['remnant of her SEED'], who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."**

The **CEV** correctly links the dragon's **final rage** against the remnant of the woman's **SEED** with the earth **helping** the woman. In other words, the dragon is enraged **because** the earth helped the woman. It is proper to link the events in verses 13-17 in the following way:

*"**So** (kai) when the dragon saw he was cast out, he persecuted the woman... **but** (kai), God gave the woman the wings of an eagle to escape to the wilderness... **then** (kai) the dragon spewed water out of his mouth... **but** (kai) the earth helped the woman... **this made** [kai in the **CEV**] the dragon enraged with the woman."*

Stage #6: The dragon's final onslaught against the SEED'S seed:

Revelation 12:17, KJV:

*"And the dragon was wroth **with the woman**, and went to make war with the **remnant [God's faithful people]** of her **seed [of Jesus—Galatians 3:16]**, who **keep** the commandments of God and **have** the testimony of Jesus Christ."*

Because the **earth helped** the woman toward the end of the '*time, times and half a time*', the dragon will launch a **second stage** of persecution (the first was during the '*time, times and half a time*') against the remnant of the woman's SEED, that is, against the remnant of Jesus.

Before this, the **first four** heads of the dragon beast had dried up and died (Babylon, Medes and Persians, Greece, and Rome).

The waters from the **fifth head** had flowed for '*time, times and half a time*':

- ✓ Revelation 12:13-15: The dragon with seven heads and ten horns spewed water out of **one** of his mouths like a river (the Euphrates) for '*a time, times and half a time*' with the intention of drowning the woman.
- ✓ Revelation 13:5, 7: The sea beast with seven heads and ten horns persecuted the saints for 42 months.

The waters from the **fifth head** dried up when the sea beast received a deadly wound:

- ✓ Toward the end of the '*time, times and half a time*' the earth swallowed up the persecuting waters that the seven-headed dragon had spewed out of one of its mouths and persecution ceased (Revelation 12:16).

- ✓ At the end of the 42 months the seven-headed sea beast received a deadly wound on **one** of its heads, and persecution ceased (Revelation 13:3).

The waters of the spiritual Euphrates will **flow once more**:

- ✓ After a **period of inaction**, the waters of the spiritual Euphrates will flow once more when the **deadly wound is healed**. This will threaten the very existence of the remnant of the woman's SEED (Revelation 12:17; 13:11-18; 17:1,2, 15).

The waters of the spiritual Euphrates will **dry up** for the final time:

- ✓ When the flooding waters of the spiritual Euphrates are about to execute the death decree, its waters will be dried up for the last time and Jesus and the armies of heaven will come from the east to deliver the faithful (Revelation 16:12-16; cf. Daniel 11:45-12:1). Ellen White described the climactic moment:

*"With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, **throngs** of evil men are about to **rush** [**the waters of the Euphrates**] upon their prey, when, lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth. Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens and seems to encircle each praying company. The **angry multitudes** [**the waters of the Euphrates**] are suddenly **arrested** [**dry up**]. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their murderous rage are forgotten. With fearful forebodings they gaze upon the symbol of God's covenant and long to be shielded from its overpowering brightness." GC, pp. 635,636*

Summary of the ebb and flow of waters in Revelation 12, 13 and 17:

- ✓ **The flood**: 1260 years or 42 months of papal persecution—538-1798 AD). The dragon **spewed** water out of his mouth for 'time, times and half a time' in an attempt to drown the woman (Revelation 12:13-15).
- ✓ Toward the end of the 'time, times and half a time', the earth helped the woman by swallowing up the persecuting waters (Revelation 12:16). The persecuting waters **dried up** when the territory of the United States gave refuge to the woman and the papacy lost the support of the civil powers in 1798.

- ✓ **The flood:** Because the earth provided refuge for the woman, the dragon will launch a **second period** of persecution against the remnant of the woman's SEED (Revelation 12:17). The persecuting waters will flow once more when the United States restores the papacy's sword of civil power and heals its deadly wound.
- ✓ The persecuting waters will **dry up** for the final time when the papacy loses the support of the civil powers during the sixth plague (Revelation 16:12; 17:16).

The dragon's rage against the remnant has **three reasons**. First, because the earth provided refuge for the woman. Second, because the remnant keeps the commandments of God, and third, because they have the testimony of Jesus. Notably, although the dragon hates all of God's commandments, he despises **one in particular**. Yet in his rage, the dragon does not intend to **abolish** this commandment, but rather to **change it!** Thus, we need to discover which commandment the dragon intended to change during the '*time, times and half a time*'.

According to the lexicons, the **Aramaic word** 'change' (*sebar*) means '*the intention to change something from the way it was before*'. The question is, **which power** during the '*time, times and half a time*' **claims** to have changed God's law in some way from what it was before? We have already proved that the little horn of Daniel 7 symbolizes the papacy so it must have been the papacy who thought to change God's law. But how?

Following, are only a few of the **numerous** quotations where Roman Catholic theologians claim that the change from Sabbath to Sunday was made by the papacy during the '*time, times and half a time*'.

John O'Brien, who for many years was a theology professor at the University of **Notre Dame** and the **author** of some forty books wrote:

*"The **Church** received the authority to make such a **change** from her Founder, Jesus Christ. He solemnly **conferred upon His Church** the power to legislate, govern and administer... the power of the keys. It is to be noted that the Church **did not change the divine law** obliging men to worship, but **merely changed***

the day in which such public worship was to be offered; thus the law involved was merely a ceremonial law.

"But since Saturday, not Sunday, is specified in the Bible, isn't it curious that non-Catholics [Protestants] who profess to take their religion directly from the Bible and not from the Church, observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Yes, of course, it is inconsistent; but this change was made about fifteen centuries before Protestantism was born, and by that time the custom was universally observed. They [Protestants] have continued the custom, even though it rests upon the authority of the Catholic Church and not upon an explicit text in the Bible. That observance remains as a reminder of the Mother Church from which the non-Catholic sects broke away—like a boy running away from home but still carrying in his pocket a picture of his mother or a lock of her hair." John O'Brien, The Faith of Millions (Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., 1974) p. 400, 401

Theologian H. Canon Cafferata claimed the same:

"A word about Sunday. God said: 'Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day!' The Sabbath was Saturday, not Sunday; why, then, do we keep Sunday holy instead of Saturday? The Church altered the observance of the Sabbath to the observance of Sunday. . . Protestants who say that they go by the Bible and the Bible only, and that they do not believe anything that is not in the Bible, must be rather puzzled by the keeping of Sunday when God distinctly said, 'Keep holy the Sabbath day.' The word Sunday does not come anywhere in the Bible so, without knowing it, they are obeying the authority of the Catholic Church." H. Canon Cafferata, The Catechism Simply Explained (London: Burns Oates & Washbourne Ltd., 1938), p. 89.

A Catechism written by Killgallen and Weber follows suit:

"Why did the Church change the Lord's day from the Sabbath to Sunday? The Church, using the power of binding and loosing which Christ gave to the Pope, changed the Lord's day to Sunday." Killgallen and Weber, Life in Christ: Instructions in the Catholic Faith, p. 243

James Cardinal Gibbons unabashedly claims the papacy made the change:

"The Catholic Church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to

*Sunday. We say by virtue of her divine mission, because he who called himself the 'Lord of the Sabbath,' endowed her with his own power to teach, 'he that heareth you, heareth me;' commanded all who believe in him to hear her under penalty of being placed with the 'heathen and publican;' and promised to be with her to the end of the world. She holds her charter as teacher from him—a charter as infallible as perpetual. The Protestant world at its birth [**in the Reformation of the sixteenth century**] found the Christian Sabbath too strongly entrenched to run counter to its existence; it was therefore placed under the necessity of acquiescing in the arrangement, thus implying the **church's right to change the day**, for over three hundred years. The Christian Sabbath is therefore to this day, the acknowledged **offspring of the Catholic Church** as spouse of the Holy Ghost, without a word of remonstrance from the Protestant world." The Catholic Mirror (Baltimore, September 23, 1893)*

The *Mirror* was the official organ of Cardinal Gibbons and the article from which this quotation is taken was one of a series of four, printed September 2, 9, 16, and 23, 1893, under the general heading:

'The Christian Sabbath: The Genuine Offspring of the Union of the Holy Spirit and the Catholic Church His Spouse. The Claims of Protestantism to Any Part Therein Proved to be Groundless, Self-contradictory, and Suicidal.'

These articles were subsequently printed by the *Mirror* as a tract. The *Mirror* was discontinued in 1908, and five years later was succeeded by the **Catholic Review**, which is now the organ of the archdiocese of Baltimore.

*"The **Church changed** the observance of the Sabbath to Sunday by right of the divine, infallible authority given to her by her Founder, Jesus Christ. The Protestant, claiming the Bible to be the only guide of faith, has no warrant for observing Sunday. In this matter the Seventh-day Adventist is the only consistent Protestant. Sunday as the day of rest to honor our Lord's resurrection dates to Apostolic times and was so established among other reasons, to mark off the Jew from the Christian. St. Justin the Martyr speaks of it in his Apologies." The Catholic Universe Bulletin, 'The Question Box,' (Volume 69, August 14, 1942), p. 4.*

During the '*time, times and half a time*', the little horn, the dragon's emissary, claimed to have the right to change the fourth commandment from Sabbath to Sunday. At the conclusion of that period, the little horn lost its power, but when

it recovers it, it will impose that change by the **force of law** and whoever refuses to receive the mark of the beast will face a **death decree**.

According to **Revelation 12:17**, the dragon's wrath will be manifested against those who **keep the Commandments** of God. Revelation 13 will expand upon the dragon's wrath against those who keep the commandments of God and refuse to receive the mark of the beast.

The final test that will divide the world into two groups is not primarily a **matter of days** but rather of **authority**. On the one hand, the observance of the Sabbath will be a sign of **loyalty** and **obedience** to the Creator's Word and on the other, the observance of Sunday will be the sign of **loyalty** and **obedience** to the beast's word. There is a marked contrast between the first and third angel's message. The first angel's message commands us to worship the Creator and the third warns us not to worship the beast who attempted to change God's law.

In fact, the final test at the end, will be the **same** as at the beginning. Eating from all the trees but abstaining from one was a sign of obedience and loyalty to the Creator's Word. On the other hand, partaking of the forbidden tree was a sign of loyalty and obedience to the serpent's word.

Let's summarize the six stages of Revelation 12:

- ✓ The **woman** (the Old Testament period: the lion, bear and leopard)
- ✓ The **dragon** with **no horns** attempts to slay the male child (the **first stage** of Rome).
- ✓ The dragon sprouts **ten horns** (the **second stage** of Rome).
- ✓ The dragon **persecutes the woman** for '*time, times and half a time*' (the **third stage** of Rome).
- ✓ **Cessation** of persecution (the earth swallows the persecuting waters).
- ✓ The **second** and **final stage** of the **dragon's wrath** (the **fourth stage** of Rome)

Unanswered Questions After Revelation 12

Several questions remain unanswered after our study of Revelation 12:

- ✓ Who is the remnant of the woman's SEED?
- ✓ Where is a further expansion of the dragon's wrath described in Revelation 12:17? We would expect it in Revelation 13, right?
- ✓ Why did the little horn/dragon cease to reign at the conclusion of the '*time, times and half a time*'?
- ✓ How will the dragon manifest its wrath against the remnant of the woman's SEED described in Revelation 12:17? Will it be in person or by employing another beast, his seed, as his deputy?
- ✓ Which of the Ten Commandments does the dragon particularly despise?
- ✓ What is the testimony of Jesus and why will the dragon hate those who possess it?
- ✓ How will the dragon attempt to counteract the testimony of Jesus?

The Identity of the Remnant of the Woman's SEED

Let's answer the first question. The primary end time rage of the dragon is not against the woman, but rather against the last residue of her SEED. Who is the woman's SEED? The early verses of chapter 12 identify her SEED as the male child, Jesus Christ! This being so, the remnant of her SEED are the remnant of Jesus!

The apostle Paul identified the SEED as one person, Jesus Christ:

Galatians 3:16:

"Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ."

John identified Jesus as the solitary Seed that was buried in the earth, died and sprouted to new life and as a result, bears much seed:

John 12:24:

"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."

Those who are baptized into Christ, symbolically die with Him, are buried with Him, and resurrect or sprout to newness of life with Him and become the **SEED'S seed**:

Galatians 3:26, 27, 29:

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. . . ²⁹ and if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

When we plant a **tomato seed**, the seed is buried in the earth, dies, sprouts to new life, and produces many tomatoes with many seeds. All the tomato seeds come from the original solitary seed. They are the seed's seed!

The Prophecy of Revelation 13 and the Fourth Stage of Rome

Revelation 13 contains the **same beasts** as Daniel 7, but in **reverse order** because Daniel was looking forward and John was looking backward:

Revelation 13:1, 2:

"Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. ² Now the beast which I saw was like a [1] leopard, his feet were like the feet of a [2] bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a [3] lion. The [4] dragon [with seven heads and ten horns] gave him [5: the beast] his power, his throne, and great authority."

Here is the order of Old Testament powers in **Daniel 7**:

- ✓ **Lion**: Babylon
- ✓ **Bear**: Medes and Persians
- ✓ **Leopard**: Greece

Here is the order of powers in the **New Testament** period:

- ✓ **The dragon**: The Roman Empire (the **first stage** of Rome)
- ✓ **The ten horns**: The Roman Empire **divided** (the **second stage** of Rome)
- ✓ **The beast**: Papal Rome received its throne, power and authority from the ten-horned dragon and ruled as its deputy for **42 months** (the **third stage** of Rome).

In Daniel 7 the little horn sprouted from the head of the ten-horned dragon. Revelation 13:2 explains the **same event** as the ten-horned dragon **giving** his 'power, his throne, and great authority' to the beast.

For **42 months** (Revelation 13:5; the **third stage** of Rome) the beast from the sea **persecuted** the saints (Revelation 13:7), spoke **blasphemies** against God with its mouth (Revelation 13:5), railed against the **heavenly sanctuary** (cf. Daniel 8; Revelation 13:7), and things went well for it (Revelation 13:7)!

The Deadly Wound Ends the 42 Month Persecution

Revelation 13 adds a **fourth stage** to the career of the **fourth beast**. When the **42 months** concluded, the sea beast received a **deadly wound** on the fifth head that had **ruled** for "*time times and half a time*". The head no longer spewed out persecuting waters. Now we know why the sea beast's rule was suspended at the conclusion of the 42 months—because it received a deadly wound on one of its heads.

Revelation 13:3:

*"And I saw **one** of his heads [the fifth head that poured water from its mouth] as if it had been **mortally wounded**..."*

A 226-year moratorium on persecution followed.

Important Questions

In order to fully understand the meaning of the deadly wound and its healing, we must answer several questions:

- ✓ What is the **papacy**?
- ✓ Are the 'papacy' and the Roman Catholic Church **interchangeable**?
- ✓ Which **weapon** gave the beast its deadly wound?
- ✓ What does that weapon **represent**?
- ✓ What is the **meaning** of the deadly wound?
- ✓ Who gave the beast its **deadly wound**?
- ✓ In what sense did the beast go into **captivity**?
- ✓ **Why** hasn't the beast's wound been **healed**?
- ✓ What keeps the beast from being emancipated **from its captivity**?

None of these questions are answered in Daniel 2, 7 or Revelation 12 although Revelation 12:17 does hint at a fourth stage of the dragon. Revelation 13 carries us **far beyond** the events that occurred during the '*time, times and half a time*'.

The Papacy and the Catholic Church

Let's answer these questions one by one. The word 'papacy' is **not interchangeable** with the Roman Catholic Church. The papacy is the organizational system, the **hierarchy** that intermingles the church with the civil powers of the world. In 1798, when the papacy received its deadly wound, the Catholic Church, as a church, did not cease to function or exist. The everyday members still baptized their **infants**, attended **mass**, went to the **confessional** and partook of the **Eucharist**. What happened in 1798 was that the **state withdrew** its support from the church. The church continued to function as a church but the papacy was wounded.

The year **1798** marked the **climax of the French Revolution** that began in **1789**. The Revolution was an uprising against both **kingly power** and **priestly**

intolerance. On February 12, 1798 General Berthier entered Vatican City, deposed pope Pius VI, informed him that his power was at an end, and took him prisoner to France where he died in exile in 1799. The emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte, had already given the order that a successor not be elected.

It is interesting to note how historians describe the deadly wound given to the papacy. They employ language very similar to Revelation 13. None of them describe the deadly wound as the demise of the church but rather as the loss of the support of the state.

“The papacy was extinct; not a vestige of its existence remained; and among all the Roman Catholic powers not a finger was stirred in its defense [because it no longer had the support of the state]. The Eternal City had no longer prince or pontiff; its bishop was a dying captive in foreign lands; and the decree was already announced that no successor would be allowed in its place.” George Trevor, Rome: From the Fall of the Western Empire pp. 439, 440

“No wonder that half of Europe thought Napoleon’s veto would be obeyed, and that with the Pope, the Papacy was dead.” (Joseph Rickaby, Lectures on the History of Religion, ‘The Modern Papacy,’ volume 3, p. 1

“Multitudes imagined that the papacy was at the point of death and asked, would Pius VI be the last pontiff, and if the close of the eighteenth century would be signalized by the fall of the papal dynasty.” T. H. Gill, The Papal Drama, book 10

“. . . the Papacy had suffered its deepest humiliation. . . [and] appeared to be annihilated . . . The Revolution also dealt it the wound which, it seemed did not want to heal until far into the twentieth century.” (M. Weitlauff, quoted in, Frank B. Holbrook, Symposium on Revelation, volume 2 (Hagerstown, Maryland: Review and Herald, 1992), p. 337

The Deadly Wound and the Sword

The French Revolution was a catastrophic event for the papacy. In the aftermath of the Revolution, country after country in the western world followed the example of France by establishing democratic governments that proclaimed their emancipation from the straightjacket of the papacy. However, though the Revolution mortally wounded the papacy, prophecy

foretells that she will arise from her deathbed far more powerful and despotic than she was in the past.

Revelation 13 tells us that the papacy was wounded with the sword (Revelation 13:10, 14) and the sword symbolizes the punitive power of the state to punish violations of civil law (Romans 13:1-4). This sword the papacy had used to persecute the saints, to levy fines, to incarcerate, to confiscate goods and to kill, and it turned against her.

In the chapter on the French Revolution, Ellen White quoted the church historian Wylie about the papacy's use of the sword during the 1260 years:

"Thus Rome succeeded in arraying France against the Reformation. It was to uphold the throne, preserve the nobles, and maintain the laws, that the sword of persecution was first unsheathed in France." GC, p. 277

Martin Luther recognized that the secular sword could not help in his battle against the papacy. In words to the elector as he was about to depart the Wartburg he wrote:

"No secular sword can advance this cause; God must do all, without the aid or co-operation of man. He who has most faith is the most availing defense." GC, p. 188

Ellen White described the persecution of the church by Saul of Tarsus with the sword of civil power, in words reminiscent of what the papacy did during the 'time, times and half a time.'

"Then he [Saul of Tarsus] was entrusted with the sword of secular power, he was the agent of the Sanhedrim, the Jewish inquisitor, the exterminator of heretics, seeking victims to imprison, to scourge, or to stone." LP, p.185

The Papacy's Captivity

Not only was the papacy wounded with the sword that she had wielded during the 'time, times and half a time', but the prophecy of Revelation 13 also states that the papacy was led into captivity. This does not refer merely to the arrest and imprisonment of a single pope but rather to the incarceration of the entire papal system.

The best explanation of the papacy's incarceration and captivity is in Revelation 20. In the course of history, before the millennium, Satan has used the civil powers of the world to accomplish his purposes. As long as he has the support of the rulers of the earth, **he is free** to accomplish his work. However, at the second coming, all the civil rulers that Satan has used **will perish** and he will be **bound** because he has **lost his support**.

After the millennium, however, the wicked rulers will **resurrect** and Satan will have his **power base back**. Thus, he will be **delivered** from his prison and recover the sword of civil power.

Something similar happened to the papal power. During the 1260 years the papacy used the **sword of the state** to persecute the saints and was **free from restraint**. However, in 1798 the system **lost the support** of the civil sword and therefore was bound and went **into captivity**. The healing of the wound and the release from restraint must then mean that the papacy will **once more recover** the civil sword and thus be released from captivity.

Cardinal **Henry Manning**, echoing the prophecy of **2 Thessalonians 2**, explained how the papacy initially acquired the sword:

"Now the abandonment of Rome [to Constantinople by the emperors] was the liberation [they must have been restrained] of the pontiffs. . . The providence of God permitted a succession of irruptions, Gothic, Lombard, and Hungarian, to desolate Italy, and to efface from it every remnant of the empire. The pontiffs found themselves alone, the sole fountains of order, peace, law, and safety. And from the hour of this providential liberation [they must have been bound], when, by a divine intervention, the chains fell off [was restrained] from the hands of the successor of St. Peter, as once before from his own, no sovereign has ever reigned in Rome except the Vicar of Jesus Christ." Henry Edward Manning, *The Temporal Power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ*, Preface, pp. xxviii, xxix. London: Burns and Lambert, 1862.

"But from the hour when Constantine, in the language of the Roman law, Deo jubente, by the command of God, translated the seat of the empire to Constantinople, from that moment there never reigned in Rome a temporal prince to whom the Bishops of Rome owed a permanent allegiance. From that hour God Himself liberated [it must have been restrained] His Church. It was

from the first involved in the principles of the supernatural sovereignty of the Church on earth, that it should be one day free [must have been bound] from all temporal allegiance, though as yet its liberation [key word again] was not accomplished. . . It [the papacy] waited until such a time as God should break its bonds asunder, and should liberate it from subjection to civil powers [in the words of the apostle Paul, the 'restrainer' was 'taken out of the way'], and enthrone it in the possession of a temporal sovereignty of its own." Henry Edward Manning, The Temporal Power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ (London: Burns & Lambert, second edition, 1862), pp. 11-13.

So, what presently keeps the papacy in captivity and prevents it from using the sword again? Malachi Martin, the Jesuit priest, exorcist and confidant of Pope John Paul II inadvertently gave the reason in 1986:

"[For] fifteen hundred years and more [going back to Constantine], Rome had kept as strong a hand as possible in each local community around the wide world . . . By and large, and admitting some exceptions, that [keeping as strong a hand as possible around the wide world] had been the Roman view until two hundred years of inactivity had been imposed upon the papacy by the major secular powers of the world [western Europe and the United States]."
Quoted in Christianity Today (November 21, 1986), p. 26.

Martin made three important points in his statement:

- ✓ First, the papacy 'kept as strong a hand as possible in each local community around the wide world' 'for fifteen hundred years'.
- ✓ Second, for two hundred years before 1986, the papacy has been unable to use the strong hand of the civil sword to punish dissenters. Going back two hundred years from 1986 takes us to the time of the French Revolution.
- ✓ Third, the major secular powers of the world have imposed this inactivity or captivity upon the papacy because they no longer lend it the sword.

Ellen White agreed with Martin's statement but what was positive for him was negative for her. She warned that if the secular powers removed their

restraint, the papacy would be free from its captivity and would once more recover the power of the sword. This would lead to the fourth stage of Rome:

"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." GC, p. 564 (see Rev. 12:17)

The French Revolution Aftermath

The French Revolution did far more than free France from the iron fist of the papacy. In the decades that followed 1798, nation after European nation proclaimed their emancipation from papal oppression. Democratic governments were established that allowed people to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. In fact, in 1862 Cardinal Henry Manning lamented how previously supportive nations had abandoned the papacy:

"See this Catholic Church, this Church of God, feeble and weak, rejected even by the very nations called Catholic. There is Catholic France, and Catholic Germany, and Catholic Italy giving up this exploded figment of the temporal power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ.' And so, because the Church seems weak, and the Vicar of the Son of God is renewing the Passion of his Master upon earth, therefore we are scandalized, therefore we turn our faces from him." (Henry Cardinal Manning, *The Temporal Power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ*, pp. 140, 141).

The Fourth Stage of Rome: The Healing of the Wound

Revelation 13 predicts that the papacy's wound will be healed when it recovers the power of the sword and is released from its captivity. The result will be the fourth stage of Rome:

Revelation 13:3:

"... and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast."

Here is the summary of the four stages of the fourth beast:

- ✓ The united Roman Empire (168 BC – 476 AD).
- ✓ The divided Roman Empire (476- 538 AD).
- ✓ Papal Rome during the 1260 years (538 – 1798 AD).
- ✓ Papal Rome when it is released from prison and recovers the sword (???).

In the fourth stage, the deadly wound will be healed and papal Rome will rise to power once more to persecute the saints as it did in the past. The same seven-headed and ten-horned dragon who persecuted the woman during the '*time times and half a time*' (Revelation 12:6, 13-15) will once more manifest its wrath against the faithful. Revelation 12:17 hints at the healing of the deadly wound and a second period of persecution but does not explain how or by whom it will happen.

However, the questions that remained unanswered in Revelation 12:17 will be answered in Revelation 13:11-18. How and by whom will the papacy's wound be healed? Who will restore the sword to the papacy and release it from its captivity? The answer to these questions is stunning!

Revelation 13 describes another beast (a nation) that comes up ('come up' means 'to begin to reign'—Daniel 7:2) from the territory that helped the woman, and that beast will heal the wound. As the deputy or puppet of the sea beast, it will make an image of and to it, and impose by force the change in the law (the mark of the beast) on pain of death! In contrast, the faithful who keep the commandments will receive the seal of God.

Characteristics of the Beast that Rises from the earth?

The beast that will heal the wound is unlikeliest of all nations!!

- ✓ **#1:** We know that it is a nation and not an individual because a beast in prophecy represents a nation. A comparison of the little horn in Daniel 7 with the sea beast of Revelation 13 indicates that both horns and beasts can represent kingdoms.
- ✓ **#2:** This beast rises in history in the same time frame when the sea beast received its deadly wound at the end of the 42 month at the culmination

of the **French Revolution** in 1798. As the papacy was declining and close to be mortally wounded, this nation was ascending!

- ✓ #3: The beast rises from the earth, **not the sea** like the other beasts, so it must have begun to rule in a **different place** than the others that rose in Asia and Europe.
- ✓ #4: When it first rose, it was **just sprouting** like a plant (cf. Matthew 13:7) but in time it would become a world **economic, political** and **military super power**.
- ✓ #5: It would be a **single beast** or nation with two lamb like horns. That is, one nation with two kingdoms. The word 'lamb' appears in Revelation **29 times** and it always refers to Christ. So this nation would claim to believe in the two kingdoms that Christ believed in but would **contradict its profession** and speak like the persecuting dragon.

Revelation 13:11 provides a summary of the **two stage career** of the earth beast. The prophecy indicates that at its origins, the earth beast would be **benign**. It would defend the idea of the simultaneous existence of two **separate** kingdoms within the **one nation**. Contrary to the papacy, it would stand for the separation of the kingdom of the church from the kingdom of the state which would result in the God-given principles of civil and religious liberty.

However, later in its career, the earth beast would repudiate its principles and speak like the persecuting dragon of Revelation 12:17. The dragon would manifest its wrath by using the earth beast as its marionette just as the dragon had used the papacy during the 1260 years. The earth beast would make an image **of** the first beast **in its honor**, it would forbid buying and selling, legislate a death decree against the saints and impose the mark of the sea beast (the change in the law by force).

Lamb Like Horns with a Dragon's Mouth

There is **no doubt what nation** is represented by the earth beast—the United States of America. In its founding documents, in **1776** (the Declaration of Independence), in **1787** (the Constitution), and in **1791** (the Bill of Rights—the first ten amendments) the United States separated church and state which

resulted in civil and religious liberty. Since its origins, the nation has grown to become the greatest nation on earth.

However, one wonders in what sense the United States is one nation with the two kingdoms that Christ, the Lamb, recognized. The answer is that Christ, the Lamb, taught that in the one empire of Rome there were two separate kingdoms, the civil kingdom of Caesar and the religious kingdom of God. During His trial Jesus recognized the existence of two kingdoms in Rome when He said to Pilate: '*my kingdom is not of this world*' (John 18:36). The question is, does the one nation of the United States, in its founding documents, recognize these same two kingdoms?

The answer is yes! Where? In the First Amendment to its Constitution. This amendment guarantees full civil and religious liberty which requires the separation of the church from the state:

"Congress [the civil legislature] shall [stronger than 'will'] make no law respecting [clause #1]: an establishment of religion [clause #2]: or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or [clause #3]: abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." [do them justice]

Sadly, this beast from the earth will morph into an enemy of its own principles by speaking like the dragon that persecuted the woman during the 42 months. In this way it will make an image of the papacy. While it will claim to defend civil and religious liberty, it will contradict its profession.

The stories of Daniel 3 and 6 illustrate the three clauses of the First Amendment. They show that when the government establishes religion or forbids its free exercise, the result is the loss of civil liberties as well. During its past career, the papacy violated the peoples' religious rights and took away their civil rights as a result, including the greatest civil right of all, the right to LIFE! Sadly, with the aid of the United States, the papacy will do it once more in the near future!

An Attack on the Testimony of Jesus

Even further, this beast will attempt to make of none effect the testimony of Jesus, that is, the true gift of prophecy that God's end time faithful people will

possess (Revelation 12:17; 19:10; 22:8, 9). The beast from the earth will feign to be a true prophet while in reality it will be **the false prophet**. Instead of serving as a spokesperson for God, it will speak for the beast (Revelation 16:13; 19:20). Besides rubber stamping the **beast's change** in the day of worship from Sabbath to Sunday, it will also serve as the beast's surrogate by advocating for a change in the understanding of end time Bible prophecy. It will buy into and spread the **counterfeit** prophetic scenarios that come directly from the belly of the beast.

As I have carefully documented in my book, "*Futurism's Incredible Journey*", Preterism and Futurism were created by Roman Catholic Jesuits in Spain to deflect attention from the papacy's baleful actions of the past and its wicked intentions in the future!

Protestant scholars have embraced and spread prophetic views that were born in the papal counter-reformation. **Luis de Alcazar**, a Jesuit from Spain, gave a Preterist interpretation to the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation and **Francisco Ribera** provided a Futurist view. In their perspective, the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation were either fulfilled in the distant past or will be fulfilled in the distant future after the rapture of the church.

Sadly, the daughters of the papacy, have embraced both schools. Liberal Protestants have embraced and spread Preterism and conservative Protestants have done the same with Futurism thus hiding the role of the papacy and the United States in the fulfillment of prophecy.

The greatest book ever written on a historicist perspective of prophecy is "*The Great Controversy*" by *Ellen G. White*. She wrote about the importance of this work:

*'The Great Controversy should be very widely circulated. It contains the story of the **past**, the **present**, and the **future**. In its outline of the **closing scenes** of this earth's history, it bears a powerful testimony in behalf of the truth. I am more anxious to see a wide circulation for this book **than for any others** I have written; for in *The Great Controversy*, the **last message** of warning to the world is given **more distinctly** than in any of my other books.'* Letter 281, 1905.

Rome's Puppet

You might ask how we can say that the United States will bring about the fourth stage of Rome? The answer is simple. The United States will merely be papal Rome's puppet! Revelation 13 tells us that everything that the United States will do will have the purpose of pleasing the papacy.

First: The United States will have a Roman element because it will speak like a dragon and the dragon is a symbol of Rome in Revelation 12:17:

"Stealthily and unsuspectedly she [the papacy] is strengthening her forces [her allies] to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element [the use of the civil power] is. Whoever shall believe and obey the word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution." GC, p. 581

Second: The land beast will exercise all the authority of the first beast (verse 12).

Third: The land beast will do everything "in the presence of the first beast" (verses 12, 14).

Fourth: The land beast will command all the world to worship the first beast (verse 12).

Fifth: The land beast will make an image of the first beast (verse 15).

Sixth: The image will be made in honor of the first beast (verse 14).

Seventh: The land beast will impose the mark of the first beast and forbid buying and selling to those that refuse to receive it (verses 16, 17).

The United States will be the sixth head of the seven-headed dragon beast and the resurrected papacy will be the seventh:

"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. This union is cemented by the great apostate." ZT, p. 182

Protestants in the United States (the sixth head) will give its kingdom to the papacy (the seventh head):

*“What is it that **gives its kingdom** to this power? Protestantism, a power which, while professing to have the temper and spirit of a lamb and to be allied to Heaven, speaks with the **voice of a dragon**. It is moved by a power from beneath.”*
Maranatha, p. 187

Ellen White described the link between papal Rome and the United States:

*“God's word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the **Protestant world** will learn what the purposes of **Rome** really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. She [**Rome**] is silently growing into power. Her [**Rome's**] doctrines are exerting their influence in **legislative halls**, in the **churches**, and in the **hearts of men**. She [**Rome**] is piling up her lofty and massive structures in the secret recesses of which her [**Rome's**] former persecutions will be **repeated**. Stealthily and **unsuspectedly** [like the serpent in Genesis 3] she [**Rome**] is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to **strike** [like a serpent]. All that she [**Rome**] desires is a vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the **Roman element** [**the United States will have a Roman element**] is. Whoever shall believe and obey the word of God will thereby incur reproach and **persecution**.”* *GC*, p. 581

In **Daniel 7** the enemy that persecuted the saints was the **little horn**. In **Revelation 13** the enemy that persecuted the saints was the sea **beast** and in **Revelation 12** the enemy that persecuted the **woman** was the **dragon**. We can reach the following four conclusions:

- ✓ The clay of Daniel 2, the little horn of Daniel 7, the dragon of Revelation 12 and the sea beast of Revelation 13 represent the papacy.
- ✓ The little horn of Daniel 7 and the sea beast of Daniel 13 are the dragon's seed.
- ✓ The persecuted **woman** in Revelation 12, the **saints of the Most High** in Daniel 7 and the saints in Revelation 13 are God's people.
- ✓ The **1260 days** of Revelation 12:6, the “*time times and half a time*” of Revelation 12 and the 42 months represent the same period.

The Remnant is Identified by Four Characteristics

- ✓ They rise shortly after the end of the 1260 years.
- ✓ They originally rise in the territory of the United States.
- ✓ They keep all the commandments of God.
- ✓ They possess the true gift of prophecy.

Bottom line: We need to keep our eyes focused on Rome and the United States rather than Jerusalem and the middle east.



'THE FAITH ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS'
BY Pastor Stephen Bohr

LESSON #2 - REVELATION 17: THE FINAL LAYER

The Links Between Daniel 7, Revelation 12, 13 and 17

Because the symbols in Revelation 17 seem to be different than those in Daniel 7 and Revelation 12 and 13, it might appear that Revelation 17 is unrelated to the previous chain prophecies. However, there are significant links that connect Revelation 17 with the previous chapters. Here are some:

- ✓ In all three chapters there is a beast with seven heads and ten horns.
- ✓ Revelation 12 and 17 both refer to the flowing and drying up of waters (Revelation 12:15; 16:12; 17:1, 2, 15). Revelation 13 contains a parallel idea when it describes a seven-headed sea beast that persecuted God's saints for 42 months and at the end of the period received a deadly wound on one of its heads that suspended persecution for a period (Revelation 13:3).
- ✓ Revelation 13 describes the sea beast ruling over multitudes, nations and peoples for 42 months (Revelation 13:7) and in chapter 17 the harlot does likewise (Revelation 17:15).
- ✓ The sea beast of Revelation 13 persecutes the saints (Revelation 13:7) and the harlot of Revelation 17 does likewise (Revelation 17:6).
- ✓ Revelation 12, 13 describe a time period for the first stage of persecution but Revelation 17 has no time period. This indicates that the persecution described in Revelation 17 is yet future.
- ✓ The harlot of Revelation 17 has two allies that do her bidding, the kings of the earth (Revelation 17:1, 2; 18:24) and her daughters (Revelation

17:5). Likewise, in Revelation 13, the dragon (symbolizing the kings; cf. Revelation 19:19) and the beast from the earth do the bidding of the sea beast:

***"Kings and rulers and governors** have placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist, and are **represented as the dragon** who goes to make war with the saints--with those who keep the commandments of God and who have the faith of Jesus." TM, p. 39*

- ✓ Revelation 17 is the final expansion of the second and final stage of the war that is first described in Revelation 12:17.
- ✓ Revelation 16:13, 19 describes three allies (the dragon, the beast and the false prophet) and all are called Babylon and the harlot of Revelation 17 has the same name, 'Babylon'.

Dr. Carson and Conspiracy Theories

Dr. Ben Carson, the highly respected neurosurgeon, ran in the presidential primary in 2016. This was a first for a Seventh-day Adventist and gave him a unique opportunity to give visibility to the beliefs of his church. Soon, the media did just that. Journalist David Corn, on October 2, 2015 published a less than complimentary blog on the Mother Jones website:

*"Ben Carson, the retired neurosurgeon who's in the top tier of the GOP's 2016 contenders, holds some unusual beliefs. In defending creationism, he has said **Satan is behind the Big Bang theory** and the **promotion of evolution**, and he has embraced and endorsed a **paranoid McCarthy-esque conspiracy theory** that claims nefarious Marxists for decades have infiltrated every echelon of American society—including PTAs—in order to destroy the United States. But, it seems, Carson's **conspirational worldview** goes beyond all this. In a talk he gave a year ago, Carson, who is a Seventh-day Adventist, indicated that he accepts a **dark prophecy** rendered a century and a half ago by a founder of his church. She claimed that as part of the End Times, a time will come when Seventh-day Adventists will be **imprisoned** by the government and even put to death **merely** for observing the Sabbath on Saturday, not Sunday."*

*"So, does Ben Carson believe that when the big spiritual bang comes, his co-religionists will be **rounded up, imprisoned, and executed**? Though he*

frequently cites his faith in God when he speaks publicly and campaigns, **he has not discussed this core tenet** of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. But about a year ago, he did refer to it when he was a guest sermonizer at a Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia. Asked to describe the political landscape of the United States, Carson noted that most people in the United States were afraid to declare their faith. He then continued:

*"I don't know what role the Lord has for me in all this. I do know—and looking at prophecy—that the United States will **play a big role**, that there has to be a return first to a **religious awakening**, and, more than likely, any persecution, particularly of the Sabbath, will come from the **right, not from the left**."*

Corn wondered how Dr. Carson could ever be president of the land of the free and the home of the brave with such conspiracy theories. After all, how could Dr. Carson be electable if he believed that the United States would repudiate its Constitution and persecute those who refused to comply with a national Sunday law? Would not such views be considered **unpatriotic and treasonous**? Corn's article reminded me of a quotation from Ellen White:

*"When we reach the standard that the Lord would have us reach, worldlings will regard Seventh-day Adventists as **odd, singular** straight-laced **extremists**. "We are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men." The Review and Herald, January 9, 1894.*

The Secular World View

The secular media, scientists, politicians and public educational institutions are incapable of understanding **end time** events because they reject the Bible record of origins as historically reliable. They spread the idea that the universe came into existence by a Big Bang followed by a process of millions of years of macro-evolution and believe that the creation and flood stories of Genesis are myths or legends comparable to **Enuma Elish** and the **Epic of Gilgamesh**.

Because they reject the idea of a supernatural, divine beginning as recorded in Genesis, they also reject a supernatural and divine end as portrayed in the book of Revelation. Thus, a rejection of the literal Genesis stories leads to a rejection of the book of Revelation. So let's review a story in Genesis that occurred some one hundred years after the flood to see what it teaches us about the end time.

The story describes the origins of Babylon, the same end time Babylon that is described in the book of Revelation.

The Command to Disperse

As soon as Noah and his family came out of the ark, God commanded them to disperse and **populate** all earth as God had commanded Adam and Eve at creation (Genesis 1:26). It was not God's plan that human beings **consolidate** and centralize in one place.

Genesis 9:1-2:

*"Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and **fill the earth**."*

The Meaning of Bible Names

More than **seventy times**, the book of Genesis underlines the importance of the names of persons, places and events. In the book of Genesis, names are used to describe **the character** of that which bears the name. *The Interpreter's Bible Dictionary of the Bible* explains:

*"In Biblical thought a name is **not a mere label** of identification; it is an expression of the **essential nature** of its bearer. A man's name reveals **his character**. Adam was able to give names to the beasts and birds (Gen. 2:20) because, as Milton says, he understood **their nature**." *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, volume 3, pp. 500, 501*

Here are just a few names of persons and places in the book of Genesis:

- ✓ **Eve**: 'mother of the living'
- ✓ **Bethel**: 'house of God'
- ✓ **Peniel**: 'face of God'
- ✓ **Jacob/Israel**: 'supplanter', 'prince of God'
- ✓ **Yahweh Jireh**: 'God will provide'
- ✓ **Babel**: 'confusion'

Significantly, the name of the founder, **architect** and **builder** Babel and its tower was Nimrod whose name means '**rebellion**' (Genesis 10:8-11). The name fit him well because the Babel project was an act of **boldfaced rebellion**

against God's command to disperse upon the earth!

In the Genesis story we are dealing with the builders of a literal city, a literal tower with literal bricks and mortar in a literal valley on the banks of the literal River Euphrates (PP, p. 118). The fulfillment of this story in the book of Revelation will be very real yet expressed in symbolic and global terminology.

United in a Common Project

The story of Babel tells us that all humans originally spoke the same language. Yet there was more than just speaking the same tongue. The expressions 'one language' and 'one speech' indicate that they were on the same page, united in a common and rebellious, project.:

Genesis 11:1-2:

"Now the whole earth had one language and one speech [all on the same page].² And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there."

The builders all shared the same spirit, a desire to consolidate and press together to establish a new world order with a central government that would control the lives of all the citizens.

The Purposes of the Project

The rebellious project had the sole purpose of glorifying the greatness of builders and perpetuate their fame for generations to come. The builders had no intent to disperse as God had commanded but rather intended to establish a centralized government that would rule over the whole earth:

Genesis 11:3, 4:

"Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.⁴ And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves [in honor of their greatness and fame; cf. Genesis 6:4: 'men of renown'], lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." [they desired a new world order with a centralized

governing center]

Ellen White expanded upon intentions of the builders:

"Here they decided to build a city, and in it a tower of such stupendous height as should render it the wonder of the world. These enterprises were designed to prevent the people from scattering abroad in colonies. God had directed men to disperse throughout the earth, to replenish and subdue it; but these Babel builders determined to keep their community united in one body, and to found a monarchy that should eventually embrace the whole earth. Thus their city would become the metropolis of a universal empire; its glory would command the admiration and homage of the world and render the founders illustrious. The magnificent tower, reaching to the heavens, was intended to stand as a monument of the power and wisdom of its builders, perpetuating their fame to the latest generations." PP, pp. 118, 119

The project planners had two reasons for building a tower that reached to the heavens. Ellen White explained:

"By carrying the structure to a much greater height than was reached by the waters of the Flood, they thought to [1] place themselves beyond all possibility of danger. And as they would be able to ascend to the region of the clouds, they hoped to ascertain [2] the cause of the Flood." PP, p. 120

Their desire was to continue living in sin while saving themselves by their technological prowess should there be another flood. They had no faith in God's promise that He would never again destroy the world by a flood. They doubted God's word and laid plans to save themselves by their own works.

King Nebuchadnezzar manifested the identical arrogant, self-centered spirit when he established the neo-Babylonian empire:

Daniel 4:30:

"The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"

The Divine Investigation

Genesis 11:5:

Before God put an end to the project, He descended to perform a work of **investigative judgment** to reveal if the builders had gone beyond the point of no return:

“But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men [opposite of the sons of God in Genesis 6] had built.”

God keeps a minute record of the **degree of sinfulness** of nations and when they reach a certain limit that God has established, he pours out His retributive judgments upon them. Here are a few examples:

- ✓ The **Amorites**: **Genesis 15:16**: In the days of Abraham, the cup of the Amorites was not yet full but at the time of the Exodus it was.
- ✓ **Jerusalem**: **Ezekiel 9:1-6**: Before Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, God performed a work of investigative judgment and sealed His faithful followers to spare their lives.
- ✓ **Babylon**: **Daniel 5:26-28**: God weighed Babylon in the balances and found her wanting' before He destroyed the city.
- ✓ **Jerusalem** in 70 AD: **Matthew 23:38**: Long before the destruction of Jerusalem, Jesus had said, 'your house is left unto you desolate' and then He departed from the temple.
- ✓ **All Nations**: Review and Herald, March 9, 1886:

“God keeps a record with the nations: the figures are swelling against them in the books of heaven; and when it shall have become a law that the transgression of the first day of the week shall be met with punishment, then their cup will be full.” The Review and Herald, March 9, 1886

“God keeps a reckoning with nations, as well as with individuals. He allows to nations a certain period of probation, and gives them evidences of his requirements, of his supremacy, and makes known to them his laws which are to be the rule of his kingdom in the government of nations. All this he does that heathen nations may not be given up to destruction

unwarned and without light; but after he has given them evidence and light, and they still persist in insolence toward him, then, when iniquity is full as in the case of the Amorites, God takes the matter in hand, and his judgments are no longer withheld." YL February 1, 1894

✓ The United States:

"The people of the United States have been a favored people; but when they restrict religious liberty, surrender Protestantism, and give countenance to popery, the measure of their guilt will be full, and "national apostasy" will be registered in the books of heaven. The result of this apostasy will be national ruin." Review and Herald, May 2, 1893

✓ The world: **Revelation 22:11**: When probation closes, the righteous will remain righteous, the holy will remain holy and the wicked will remain filthy and unrighteous.

The Verdict and Sentence Based on the Evidence

God allowed the project to go forward for a time but when the cup filled up, God pronounced the sentence:

Genesis 11:6, 7:

"And the LORD said: "Indeed the people are one [all of the same mind] and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do [this was only the first step in a plan for a global rebellion]; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

The Execution of the Sentence

After announcing the verdict and sentence, God executed it by confounding the tongues. His purpose was to force the builders to disperse over all the earth:

Genesis 11:8, 9:

"So the LORD SCATTERED them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city, therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered

them abroad over the face of all the earth."

Ellen White described the execution of the sentence:

"Confusion and dismay followed. All work came to a standstill. There could be no further harmony or co-operation. The builders were wholly unable to account for the strange misunderstandings among them, and in their rage and disappointment they reproached one another. Their confederacy ended in strife and bloodshed. Lightning from heaven, as an evidence of God's displeasure, broke off the upper portion of the tower and cast it to the ground. Men were made to feel that there is a God who rules in the heavens." *PP, p. 119*

The Blessing of Dispersion

The confusion of the languages at Babel had a specific objective. God forced the builders to disperse over all the earth according to their language. The result was the creation of many nations with their own language, culture, and customs. A consolidated and global apostasy was made much more difficult in a multinational, multilingual, and multicultural world.

After the flood, God designed to forestall a future united confederacy that would totally demoralize the world. Each nation might yet pursue an evil course, but the division of the world into many groups would forestall a concerted, universal rebellion against God.

The purpose of the Babel builders was to extol the greatness of man in rebellion against God. The creators of the project wanted a civilization without the intervention or interference of God. Such an artificial unity eventually fell apart. God had the final word. The concerted effort ended in division, confusion and the shedding of blood. As lightning knocked off the top of the tower, the builders turned on one another.

"The builders were wholly unable to account for the strange misunderstandings among them, and in their rage and disappointment they reproached one another. Their confederacy ended in strife and bloodshed. Lightning from heaven, as an evidence of God's displeasure, broke off the upper portion of the tower and cast it to the ground. Men were made to feel that there is a God who ruleth in the heavens." *PP, p. 119*

It bears noting that **false religions** throughout history have Babel as their source. Sun worship, the immortality of the soul and even the Rosary had their origins at Babel. This is the reason, for example, why prayer beads are used by Roman Catholics, Buddhists and Muslims alike.

Malachi Martin Predicted the ‘New’ Global Order

So, Genesis gives us the **origin** of the word ‘**Babylon**’ that reappears in the book of Revelation. The Babel of Genesis is the shadowy **local type** and the Babylon of Revelation is the substantial and **global antitype**. The book of Revelation vividly describes the **ultimate global conspiracy** against the government of heaven.

In **1990** the Jesuit priest, **Malachi Martin**, predicted the rise of a **one world government** under the leadership of the **papacy**. When Martin wrote, there was a geopolitical struggle for world dominance between western capitalism, communism, and the papacy:

*“There is one great similarity shared by **all three** of these globalist competitors. Each one has in mind a particular grand design for **one world governance** . . . Their **geopolitical** competition is about which of the three will **form, dominate** and **run** the **world system** that will **replace** the decaying nation system.”*
(Malachi Martin, The Keys of this Blood, p. 18)

Martin harbored **no doubts** about which of the three would win this tooth and nail competition, the Roman Catholic Papacy. He based his certainty on Matthew 16:18 where, according to his view, Jesus predicted that the very gates of hell would not prevail against the Roman Catholic Church. Martin described in **chilling words** what would happen when the papacy resurfaces from its deadly wound:

*“No holds barred because, once the competition has been decided, the world and all that’s in it--our way of life as **individuals** and as **citizens** of the nations; our **families** and our jobs; our trade and commerce and money; our **educational systems** and our **religions** and our **cultures**; even the **badges of our national identity**, which most of us have always taken for granted--all will have been **powerfully and radically altered forever**. No one can be exempted from its effects. No sector of our lives will remain untouched . . . Nobody who is acquainted*

with the plans of these three rivals has any doubt but that only one of them can win." (Malachi Martin, The Keys of This Blood, p. 16).

Martin was right! Bible prophecy predicts that the papacy will recover the dominance—for a while—that it lost when it received the deadly wound. However, what Martin considered positive and a blessing, the Bible condemns and describes as a curse.

The End Time Scenario

The book of Revelation describes a rebellious, global, end time coalition composed of the kings of the earth, the harlot, her daughters, the merchants, and the multitudes. This end time coalition in Revelation is called Babylon. Although all these actors play a role, the harlot is the central figure of the story and she orchestrates all the events. Let's number the significant words in the description:

Revelation 17:1-6:

"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the [1] great harlot who [2] sits on [3] many waters,² with whom the [4] kings of the earth committed fornication, and the [5] inhabitants of the earth were made drunk [6] with the wine of her fornication." So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a [7] scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.⁴ The woman was [8] arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.⁵ And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE [9] MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.⁶ I saw the woman, [10] drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement."

This harlot church also has great influence over the economies of the world:

Revelation 18:3: The merchants of the earth

"For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of

"the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

The Characteristics of the Harlot

There is only one church in the world that fits all the specifications of Revelation 17, the Roman Catholic **papacy**:

- ✓ A harlot **woman** represents an apostate church.
- ✓ The fact that she **sits** on many waters means that she has global dominion over them. She sits on multitudes, nations, tongues and people (Revelation 17:15).
- ✓ The harlot sits on a **scarlet beast** that has **seven heads** and **ten horns**, just like the beasts of Daniel 7 and Revelation 12 and 13. Revelation 17 is the final expansion of the previous chapters.
- ✓ The harlot is a church that has forsaken her love relationship with her legitimate husband and carries on an **illicit relationship** with the political powers of the world.
- ✓ The harlot church has great influence and control over the **world economies**.
- ✓ The apostate harlot church gives its fermented **wine** of false doctrine to the inhabitants of the world.
- ✓ The harlot's preferred colors are **purple and scarlet**, colors denoting royalty and bloodshed.
- ✓ The harlot church is a **rich and ostentatious** because she is adorned with gold, precious stones and pearls.
- ✓ The harlot church is the **mother** of harlots which means that she has daughters who were born from her that will share her spirit.
- ✓ The harlot is a **persecuting** church because she is full of the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus.

Pope Francis I **detests internationalism** and strongly supports the **globalist plans** of the **United Nations**. He favors free immigration with open borders and **no walls** because he knows that free immigration **dilutes nationalism** and

patriotism and makes it easier to eliminate the world nation system.

Francis has also gone on the record as an **enemy of capitalism** in name of the '**common good**'. In his encyclicals he calls upon the mega **corporations** to open their coffers to the poor (like Judas) and prosperous nations to invest huge sums of **their budgets** to solve the problem of climate change. He also encourages **rich nations** to redistribute their wealth to the poor ones and is opposed to private property under the pretext of the 'common destination of goods'. Under his **Jesuit cloak** he hides the aspiration to establish a global new world order under the 'moral' control of his papacy.

The Papacy's Objectives

What are the **long-range** goals of the papacy? In the last one hundred and twenty years **four expressions** have become ever more prominent in Roman Catholic literature:

- ✓ The '**common good- ✓ **Solidarity**: We must set aside our differences, come together in ecumenical unity, and shun sectarianism.**

*"We require a new and universal **solidarity**."* *Laudato Si, Paragraph 14*

- ✓ **Subsidiarity**: Larger social bodies, be they the state or otherwise, are permitted and required to intervene only when smaller ones cannot carry out the tasks themselves.
- ✓ The **common destination of goods**: Private property and goods do not belong to individuals but rather are the patrimony of the entire human race and must be distributed according to need.

*"The principle of the **subordination of private property** to the **universal destination of goods**, and thus the **right of everyone** to their use, is a golden rule of social conduct and "the first principle of the whole ethical and social order". The Christian tradition has **never recognized the right to private property** as absolute or inviolable, and has stressed the **social purpose** of all forms of private property. . . there is always a **social mortgage on all** private property, in order that goods may serve the*

general purpose that God gave them" *Laudato Si*, Paragraph 9

Pope **Benedict XVI** used these terms in his encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*:

"To [1] manage the global economy; to [2] revive economies hit by the crisis; to [3] avoid any deterioration of the present crisis and the greater imbalances that would result; [4] to bring about integral and timely disarmament, [5] food security and peace; [6] to guarantee the protection of the environment and to [7] regulate migration: for all this, there is urgent need of a true world political authority, as my predecessor Blessed John XXIII indicated some years ago. Such an authority would need to be regulated by law, to observe consistently the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity, to seek to establish the common good, and to make a commitment to securing authentic integral human development inspired by the values of charity in truth. Furthermore, such an authority would need to be universally recognized and to be vested with the effective power to ensure security for all, regard for justice, and respect for rights. Obviously it would have to have the authority to ensure compliance with its decisions from all parties, and also with the coordinated measures adopted in various international forums." *Caritas in Veritate*, paragraph 67

Pope Francis agreed with his predecessor:

"Every effort to protect and improve our world entails profound changes in lifestyles, models of production and consumption, and the established structures of power which today govern societies" *Laudato Si*, paragraph 5

Non-Adventist Dire Warnings

Non-Adventist sources have sounded the alarm when it comes to the aspirations of the papacy. The 17th century Pietist German theologian Philipp J. Spener warned about the resurgence of the papacy:

"I am convinced that Roman Babylon will again regain all of its previous power before the last judgment overtakes it. I fear that most of the nations, intimidated by its power and terrified by its brutality, will allow the yoke shaken off some two hundred years ago to be lain upon them again." Words of Ph. J. Spener in *Symposium on Revelation*, volume 2, p. 388

The late Evangelical researcher **Dave Hunt** also gave the sound of warning:

*"Why do world leaders want to **get into bed** [to commit spiritual adultery] with the Vatican? The **heads of state** in today's world all recognize that the Pope **wields a power** which in many ways is even greater than their own. It is not only Catholicism's 900 million subjects and enormous wealth that causes the world's **most powerful governments** to cultivate friendly relations with the Roman Catholic Church; it is because Vatican City's citizens are found in great numbers in nearly every country. They constitute an **international network** that reaches into the **inside circles** of the **world's power centers**."* (Dave Hunt, *Global Peace*, p. 116)

Orion Publishing posted the following abstract of the book Ecclesiastical Megalomania by Reformed theologian John Robbins:

"The author John Robbins explores the conflict between Roman Catholic political theory and human freedom, and demonstrates that Roman Catholic political and economic thought and the Roman Catholic Church-state have been hostile to constitutional government, political and economic freedom and the private property order for centuries. This false system has engendered feudalism, the corporate state, liberation theology, the welfare state and fascism."

Not too long ago, at the end of the 20th century, Robbins warned about the nefarious intentions of the papacy:

*"What the Roman Catholic Church-State accomplished on a **small scale** during the Middle Ages is what it desires to achieve on a **global scale** in the coming millennium."* John W. Robbins, *Ecclesiastical Megalomania*, p. 187 (1999)

Robbins quoted the warning given by American novelist and philosopher **Ayn Rand**:

*'The Catholic Church has never given up the hope to **re-establish** [she must have once had it and lost it] the medieval **union of church and state**, with a **global state** and a **global theocracy** as its ultimate goal.' The **Roman Church-State** is a **hybrid—a monster of ecclesiastical and political power**. Its political thought is totalitarian, and whenever it has had the opportunity to apply its principles, the result has been **bloody repression**. If, during the last 30 years, it has softened its assertions of full, supreme, and irresponsible power, and has murdered fewer*

people than before, such changes in behavior are not due to a change in its ideas, but to a change in its circumstances [the secular governments keep her at arms' length] . . . The Roman Church-State in the twentieth century, however, is an institution recovering from a mortal wound. If and when it regains [so it must have lost it] its full power and authority, it will impose a regime more sinister than any the planet has yet seen [the deadly wound will be healed]." John W. Robbins, Ecclesiastical Megalomania, p. 195.

Danger Signals

Let's take an example of how the papacy has gotten its foot in the door to influence the civil powers of the world. By far, the item that is at the top of the papal agenda is what it perceives to be the problem of climate change. Here the pope has found a theme that he shares in common with the political leaders of the world and with which he can get his foot in the door.

In April of 2015 the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences published a report titled "Climate Change and the Common Good". In this document the papacy presented a doomsday scenario of what will happen if climate change is not urgently addressed by all nations. The clear intent of the document was to scare world political leaders into action.

Then, on May 24, 2015 Pope Francis published his much anticipated encyclical on climate change, Laudato Si'. World leaders, with few exceptions, lauded the encyclical as just what the world needs at this critical time.

In September of 2015 pope Francis traveled to the United States and participated in four significant events:

- ✓ September 22, 2015 President Obama invited the Pope to the White House where they conversed about the global problems of poverty, immigration and climate change.
- ✓ On September 24, 2015 the pope, for the first time in history, addressed a joint session of the Congress of the United States where he once again lectured the politicians about the need to solve the problems of climate change, poverty and immigration.

- ✓ The pope then traveled to **Philadelphia**, the cradle of our American system of government. **Scores of people** from every **religion and nation** traveled to the City of Brotherly Love to see and hear the pope. More than one million attended an outdoor **mass on Sunday, September 27**. In fact, the pope gave a speech on the very porch of **Constitution Hall** where the founding documents of the United States were drafted and ratified in 1776, 1787 and 1791.
- ✓ But the pope saved his 'best' for last! On **September 28, 2015** he gave the keynote **message** to open the **70th Session** of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The speech contained the **usual papal talking points**, of poverty, immigration, family and above all, climate change.

At the conclusion of his address the delegates of the **193 nations** in attendance gave the pope a **thunderous standing ovation** that lasted for several **minutes**. The UN then took up the business at hand and all the nations represented unanimously approved the *Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda* with its **17 global goals and 169 targets**.

Even a cursory reading of the *2030 Agenda*, as it is called, reveals that its goal is to **eliminate national autonomy** and establish a **centralized global socialist authority** that will control the **world economy**, wipe out **individualism**, **eliminate sectarianism**, determine the **curriculum** to be used in the education of children, promote **gender equity**, propose a **redistribution of wealth**, and impose **severe global penalties** upon nations that refuse to address the problem of climate change.

Concerning the 2030 agenda, the UN Secretary General, **Ban Ki-Moon** said:

*"The new agenda is a promise by leaders to **all people everywhere**. It is a **universal** integrated and transformative vision for a better world."*

*"Institutions will have to become fit for a **grand new purpose**. . . We must engage **all actors**, as we did in shaping the Agenda. We must include **parliaments**, and **local governments**, and work with **cities** and **rural** areas. We must rally **businesses and entrepreneurs**. We must involve **civil society** in defining and implementing policies—and give the space to **hold us to account**. We must listen*

to scientists and academia. We will need to embrace a data revolution. Most important, we must set to work—now.”

The relationship between the papacy and the United States has grown ever closer in the last few decades. Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul formed a secret alliance that succeeded in breaking apart the Soviet Union. Francis helped president Obama establish diplomatic relations with Cuba and promised to help the United States close the prison in Guantanamo.

The delegates from 196 nations met in Paris from November 30 to December 12, 2015 to hammer out what is known as the Paris Agreement, a global pact on the reduction of climate change. The agreement became legally binding on April 22, 2016 when 174 nations signed the agreement at the United Nations in New York. Other nations promised to sign the agreement in the immediate future. The then Secretary of State John Kerry, with his little granddaughter on his lap, signed the agreement in representation of the United States and President Barack Obama.

On August 18, 2022, an article appeared by Brian Roewe about the signing of the Inflation Reduction Act by President Biden. The bill approved an expenditure of 369 billion dollars over ten years to address climate change. The title of the article was eye opening:

“Historic Climate Law, signed by Biden, has Catholic Fingerprints All Over it.”

In his article, Roewe wrote described some significant information about the signing:

“It was Biden, the nation's second Catholic president, who signed it into law. After doing so, he gifted the pen to Catholic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia. . . And it was House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the Catholic from California, who gavelled the legislation secured in Congress. Before she did, she quoted the pope on the significance of the bill's climate provisions, saying they represent "values espoused by Pope Francis when he said earlier this summer 'Our planet has reached a breaking point' in the fight against climate crisis.' ”

Francis is the first Jesuit pope in the history of the Roman Catholic Church. Concerning the objectives and devious methods of this secret society, Ellen White wrote:

"At this time the order of the Jesuits was created, the cruellest, unscrupulous, and powerful of all the champions of popery... There was no crime too great for them to commit, no deception too base for them to practice, no disguise too difficult for them to assume. Vowed to perpetual poverty and humility, it was their studied aim to secure wealth and power, to be devoted to the overthrow of Protestantism, and the re-establishment of the papal supremacy. When appearing as members of their order, they wore a garb of sanctity, visiting prisons and hospitals, ministering to the sick and the poor, professing to have renounced the world, and bearing the sacred name of Jesus, who went about doing good... Under various disguises the Jesuits worked their way into offices of state, climbing up to be the counselors of kings, and shaping the policy of nations. . . The Jesuits rapidly spread themselves over Europe, and wherever they went, there followed a revival of popery." GC pp. 234, 235

Politicians, Protestants, and the rank and file Catholics see only what they access on media. They see changes in nature and weather patterns and attribute them to human factors such as fossil fuels, air conditioners, animal dung and gas stoves. However, the veil that hides the papacy's real hidden agenda is removed only in the Bible and the book "*The Great Controversy*" by *Ellen G. White*. The gospel of Matthew describes the turmoil in society and in nature as we near the time of the end:

Matthew 24:6-8:

"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Then, verse 9 reveals Satan's stealth agenda. His ultimate goal is to blame those who are faithful to God for the upheaval in society and nature.

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

Ellen White explained how scientists have failed to explain the real cause for the turmoil in society and nature:

"The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture." 6T p. 408

Globalism Made Easy

We live in a world where a globalist system of government is much easier to install than in the past:

- ✓ We live in a world interconnected by travel. One can travel from one side of the planet to the other in one day or less. American Airlines epitomizes this global consortium of airlines as the One World Alliance.
- ✓ Language is no longer a barrier between nations. Sophisticated software and language courses have made it easy to translate one language to another almost instantly.
- ✓ We live in a world of interconnected economies. It has been said that when the United States sneezes, the world catches cold. The same could be said of China, the European Union and other capitalist nations.
- ✓ We live in a world where technology has phenomenally increased. Drones, satellites, the internet, AI, and other technological advances that we are not even aware of, make the world a neighborhood.
- ✓ We live in a world where global communication is instantaneous. Skype, email, Zoom, email, text messages, WhatsApp, cell phones, Instagram, X, Facebook and TikTok bring the world together almost instantaneously.

- ✓ Religious strife has awakened a clamor for all religions to come together into ecumenical unity. The pope has made this objective one of his prime tasks. Several years ago Jewish Prime Minister **Shimon Peres** even suggested that a United Nations of Religion be established with the pope as the overseer.
- ✓ The pope has encouraged all nations to **disarm**. To date, he has not been successful but eventually, he will. He is behind the agenda to disarm the citizens of the United States.
- ✓ The nations of the world have responded to the pope's call to unite in order to resolve the **climate change** challenge and **world poverty**. **One hundred and ninety-three** nations came together and signed the **2030 Agenda** of the United Nations to end global poverty and solve the climate change crisis.
- ✓ A one-world philosophy seems to be captivating the western nations of the world. Among them, are **post-modern** thinking, **political correctness, unity in diversity, pluralism, equity** (not to be confused with equality) the **relativity** of truth, and the clamor for human rights that violate the principles of God's law.

Ellen White: A Global unity but in rebellion against God

The book of Revelation describes three evil spirits who will gather the rulers of the earth and the whole world for the final battle against God in the person of His people:

Revelation 16:13-14:

*“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the **dragon**, out of the mouth of the **beast**, and out of the mouth of the **false prophet**. ¹⁴ For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the **whole world**, to **gather them** to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”*

As at Babel, Revelation 17:13 tells us that all these rulers will be on the **same page** until words of God are finished at the moment of the seventh plague (Revelation 16:17).

Revelation 17:13:

"These [the ten horns on the seventh head of the dragon beast] are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast."

Ellen White expands upon these verses in Revelation 17:

"The so-called Christian world is to be the theater of great and decisive actions. Men in authority [politicians] will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the example of the papacy. Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine [more on this in the next chapter] of the wrath of her fornication. Every nation will be involved. Of this time John the Revelator declares: [Revelation 18:3-7; 17:13, 14, quoted]. "These [the ten horns] have one mind." There will be a [1] universal bond of union, [2] one great harmony, a [3] confederacy of Satan's forces. "And [the ten horns] shall give their power and strength unto the beast." Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty—freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience—as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism." *3SM*, p. 392 (1891).

"In the great conflict between faith and unbelief the whole Christian world will be involved." *The Review and Herald*, February 7, 1893.

"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 world." *6T*, p. 395

The papacy and the United Nations envision a world that is founded on the platform of error and rebellion against the **original plan** of the great Creator. God's original plan included country living, respect for life, a vegan diet, two genders, heterosexual marriage, different functions for men and women in the family and in the church and seventh day Sabbath rest. **Evolution** turns all this on its head. It rejects the Bible's story of how things began and how they will end, and it **robs God** of his wisdom, greatness, love and kindness.

Back to the Ben Carson Factor

In the future, minority organizations that are perceived as sectarian and are critical of the sinfulness of the world will be despised, accused of brewing conspiracies and singled out as divisive. Like in the days of Elijah, they will be seen as troublemakers of the people and will eventually be persecuted. Ellen White warned:

"When we reach the standard that the Lord would have us reach, worldlings will regard Seventh-day Adventists as odd, singular, strait-laced extremists. "We are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men." FE, p. 289

Why are not Adventists considered this way now? Is it just possible that it is because we have conformed to the world? Yet Ellen White predicted that our church will be brought into prominence in the near future:

"Our people have been regarded as too insignificant to be worthy of notice, but a change will come. The Christian world is now making movements which will necessarily bring commandment-keeping people into prominence." 5T, p. 546

"Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government. Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God. In legislative halls and courts of justice, commandment keepers will be misrepresented and condemned. A false coloring will be given to their words; the worst construction will be put upon their motives.

As the Protestant churches reject the clear, Scriptural arguments in defense of God's law, they will long to silence those whose faith they cannot overthrow by the Bible. Though they blind their own eyes to the fact, they are now adopting a course which will lead to the persecution of those who conscientiously refuse to do what the rest of the Christian world are doing, and acknowledge the claims of the papal sabbath.

*The dignitaries of **church and state will unite** to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor the Sunday. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by **oppressive enactments**. **Political corruption** is destroying **love of justice** and **regard for truth**; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to **secure public favor**, will yield to the **popular demand** for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. In the soon-coming conflict we shall see exemplified the prophet's words: "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" Revelation 12:17. GC, p. 592*

The persecutions of the past will be renewed in the future by the very papacy that persecuted in the past, but this time it will using **apostate Protestantism** as its puppet.

The Final Fall of Babylon

God will have the **last word** when it comes to Babylon. End time Babylon will come to a **crashing fall** and, as at Babel, the result will be confusion and bloodshed:

Revelation 16:17-21:

*"Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" [the sentence is executed] ¹⁸ And there were noises and **thunderings and lightnings**; and there was a **great earthquake**, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. ¹⁹ Now the great city was **divided** [the union falls apart] into three parts, and the **cities of the nations fell**. And **great Babylon** [same name as at Babel and Nebuchadnezzar] was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath [the cup was filled to the brim]. ²⁰ Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. ²¹ And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great."*

*"The people see that they have been deluded. They **accuse one another** [like at Babel] of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest*

condemnation upon the ministers. **Unfaithful pastors** have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these **teachers confess** before the world their work of deception. **The multitudes are filled with fury.** "We are lost!" they cry, "and you are the cause of our ruin;" and they **turn upon the false shepherds**. The very ones that once admired them most will pronounce the most **dreadful curses** upon them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God's people are now employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is **strife** and **bloodshed**." [they turn on each other] *GC* pp. 655, 656

Importance of Unity in Truth

As the world unites upon the platform of error, what should God's people be doing? The answer is in John 17 where Jesus not only prayed for unity among the twelve but also for those who would believe in their message:

John 17:14-19:

*"I have given them **Your word**; and the world has **hated them** because they are **not of the world**, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are **not of the world**, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by **Your truth**. Your **word is truth**. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be **sanctified by the truth**."*

There can be no true and **lasting union** in disobedience to the will of God. Unity must be based on truth or else it will fall apart.

- ✓ God's people must come together **into unity** to give Satan a **united front**. Can you imagine the Father and the Son in unity but in **diversity of truth**?

*"Christ is leading out a people to stand in **perfect unity** on the broad **platform of eternal truth**."* *Bible Echo*, September 1, 1888

- ✓ We must develop a spirit of **loyalty** to the truth that cannot be shaken (like the three young Hebrew worthies in the furnace and Daniel in the lion's den).

- ✓ It is not a time to **conform to the world**. God's end-time remnant will be different than the world and the world will hate them because they have not conformed to the world's standard. This is not a time to win a popularity contest but rather a time to stand for truth!

John 15:18-19:

*"If the **world hates you**, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹**If you were of the world**, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the **world hates you**."*

John 17:14:

*"I have given them Your word; and the **world has hated** them because they are **not of the world**, just as I am not of the world."*

Pessimistic View of the End of Human History

The Bible scenario of end time events is **pessimistic** rather than optimistic.

At the very end of human history, just before the coming of Jesus, the planet will **wax old** and unravel at the seams (Isaiah 24:1-6). The world will be as it was in the **days of Noah** where 'every intent of the heart of man was only evil continually'. (Genesis 6:5) It will be **like Sodom** where the men of the city wished to have homosexual relations with the angels (Genesis 19:5; Luke 17:28-30). Men's hearts will **fail them for fear** as they see the calamities that are falling upon the earth (Luke 21:26). There will be **wars and rumors of wars** as nation rises against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be **famines, pestilences, earthquakes and tumults** (Matthew 24:6-8; Luke 21:9). Humans with the **form of godliness** will be lovers of themselves that will lead to a **large catalog of sins** (2 Timothy 3:1-5). The world will reach the degenerate condition that is described in **Romans 1:18-32**. All these things will occur, not because of **climate change** but because of the iniquity of humanity (Matthew 24:6-8; Isaiah 24:5).

We have been told that '*Satan works through the elements*' and can cause '*fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and*

earthquakes' and that these 'visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous' (GC, pp. 589, 590).

The **family unit** will disintegrate and parents will hate children and children parents (Luke 21:16). **The poor** will be oppressed by the **capitalist overlords** and will cry out to God for justice (James 5:1-8; Revelation 18:6-24). Satan's agenda in these ever increasing calamities will be to finally **blame the global meltdown** on God's faithful people (Matthew 24:9). In fact, Ellen White explains that the final step in the process of the devil's end game will be to '*persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils*' (GC, pp. 589, 590).

As things get **progressively worse** and a time of trouble such as never has been seen ensues (Matthew 24:21, 22), the rebellious and disobedient world will be led by their religious and political leaders to believe that by **enforcing Sunday observance** and by **rooting out** those who keep the Sabbath, prosperity will return to the earth and there will be an era of **peace and harmony**. But instead, the Sunday law will bring about a **global apostasy** that will finally bring ruin upon creation rather than healing (Isaiah 24:6). The blame that **Ahab cast upon Elijah** for the ecological upheaval in Israel is a microcosm of what will occur on a global scale at the end. With regards to the United States, Ellen White has warned:

"The people of the United States have been a favored people; but when they restrict religious liberty, surrender Protestantism, and give countenance to popery, the measure of their guilt will be full, and "national apostasy" will be registered in the books of heaven. The result of this apostasy will be national ruin." RH, May 2, 1893

The papacy's call for the nations to address climate change, the disintegration of the family and world poverty (including immigration) is merely dealing with a **symptom**. Ellen White explained that the **primary cause** of global climate change and natural disasters is not things such as fossil fuels and cutting down forests but rather the wickedness of man in trampling upon God's Law:

*"The **restraining Spirit of God** is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. **Science seeks to explain all these.** The signs*

thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.” (6T, p. 408)

Isaiah 24:5:

“The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.”

But the Bible story of the end does not ultimately conclude on a pessimistic note. It teaches that history, as we presently know it, will end with the literal, glorious, personal, rapid, second coming of Jesus (Titus 2:11-14; Matthew 24:29, 30) to take His faithful children to heaven for a thousand years (John 14:1-3) during which the earth will return to the condition that it was in before creation week—without form and void and in darkness (Jeremiah 4:23-27).

After the millennium God will then recreate the earth in six literal days and rest the seventh literal day as He did at the beginning after which God's people will live securely and peacefully in a perfect sinless world where Jesus will reign forever and ever. As a weekly commemoration of God's creative power, His people will come to God's throne on the weekly seventh-day Sabbath to worship Him:

“For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,” says the LORD, “so shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the LORD.” (Isaiah 66:22, 23)



'THE FAITH ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS'
BY Pastor Stephen Bohr

**LESSON #3 - DECODING THE MYSTERIES OF
REVELATION 17**

As we begin our study of Revelation 17 a few clarifying thoughts are in order. My research has revealed that it is unfruitful to study Revelation 17 on its own. It must be understood in the context of Daniel 7, and Revelation 12 and 13. Unfortunately, some have attempted to interpret the chapter in isolation and have added details that are foreign to its content. It is the thesis of this paper that Revelation 17 is the fullest and final expansion of Daniel 2 and 7 and Revelation 12 and 13. For a deeper study of the expansion principle in these chapters, review my study '*A Layered Approach to Daniel 2, 7, and Revelation 12, 13 and 17.*'

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Multiple parallels link the prophecies of Revelation 12, 13 and 17:

Revelation 12 and 13

Seven heads and ten horns (12:3; 13:1)
Names of blasphemy (13:1)
Woman (12:1)
Call for wisdom (13:18)
Nations, tongues, peoples (13:7)
Persecution (12:6, 13-15; 13:15)
Waters (12:15)
Waters dried up (12:16)
'Was' (1260 years—12:6; 13:5)
'Is not' (deadly wound—12:16; 13:3)
Deadly wound healed (12:17; 13:3)
Beast & false prophet (13:1-18)

Revelation 17

Seven heads and ten horns (17:3)
Names of blasphemy (17:3)
Woman (17:1)
Call for wisdom (17:9)
Nations, tongues, peoples (17:15)
Persecution (17:6)
Waters (17:1, 15)
Waters dried up (16:12; 17:1, 2, 15, 16,17)
'Was' (1260 years—17:8)
'Is not' (deadly wound—17:8)
'Shall be' (wound healed—17:8)
Harlot and daughters (17:5)

In this study we will attempt to decode the main symbols of Revelation 17 individually and then piece them together into a mosaic. We shall find that each symbol is like a piece of a jigsaw puzzle, and only when we assemble the individual symbols together do we get the full picture of the meaning of the chapter.

Our study will reveal that the harlot of Revelation 17 has a **broad** meaning and a **narrow** one. In the broad sense, the harlot represents **apostate religion** that has allied itself with seven successive kingdoms to persecute God's people, beginning with Babylon and culminating with a revived Roman Catholic Papacy. However, the specific time frame of chapter 17 indicates that the harlot represents the **final stage** of apostate religion allied with the civil powers of the world. We can be certain of this for several reasons.

First, the angel took John in vision to the time when the harlot will be judged, condemned and hated by the civil powers and waters upon which she rode.

However, to provide context, the angel also described the events that will lead up to that climax:

*"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you **the judgment** of the great harlot who sits on many waters." (Revelation 17:1).*

Second, the link between the flowing waters upon which the harlot Babylon sits (Revelation 17:1, 2, 15) and their drying up at the time of the sixth plague (Revelation 16:12), clearly indicates that the chapter is describing the harlot's final hurrah and judgment/punishment (Revelation 6:9-11; 19:1, 2).

Third, I have included many Ellen White statements where she identified the harlot of Revelation 17 as the papacy in its two stages—during the 1260 years in the past and when her deadly wound is healed in the future.

The interpretation in this paper is based on what I consider to be persuasive evidence. However, I am keenly aware that we must be cautious when we are dealing with unfulfilled prophecy. Although I believe that the general contours of Revelation 17 are becoming ever clearer with the passing of time, many of the details still await further clarification. Jesus said to His disciples: *"And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe."* (John 14:29).

Introduction

The book of Revelation is saturated with **exotic imagery**. This imagery, known as **apocalyptic**, was part of the *lingua franca* of the day. In order to understand this bizarre symbolism today, we must walk in the shoes of those who lived when the book was written. That is, we must understand the symbols as **they did** and not as we would in the twenty-first century.

Revelation 17 is one of the most **complex** and **intellectually challenging** chapters in the book of Revelation. It contains vivid symbols, mysterious numbers, perplexing time references and strange expressions. It is like a **giant jigsaw puzzle** with each symbol being a piece of the puzzle. Before we can put the puzzle together we must first carefully analyze the **shape of each piece** to see where it fits within the puzzle as a whole. Fortunately for us, the **vision**

(verses 1-8) is explained in great detail by the interpreting angel in the second half of the chapter (verses 9-18).

Sign Language Requires Wisdom

The book of Revelation is written in symbolic language that must be decoded. So to speak, the heavenly communicator gave the message to John in sign language and this symbolic language must be deciphered in order to make sense of the book's message. Revelation 17 tells us that we must have wisdom in order to understand the complex symbolic language of the chapter:

“Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.¹⁰ There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.¹¹ The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.’ (Revelation 17:9-11)

There is only one way to decode the meaning of what appears to be utterly confusing, that is, to seek wisdom that comes only from God:

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.” (James 1:5, 7).

This means that it is not sufficient to study the chapter with all the research tools at our disposal. Many times I have had to stop studying, take a pause, and plead with the Lord for understanding and He has always come through sooner or later.

The Links Between Daniel 7, Revelation 12, 13 and 17

Because the symbols in Revelation 17 seem to be different than those in Daniel 7 and Revelation 12 and 13, it might seem that Revelation 17 is unrelated to the previous chain prophecies. However, there are significant links that connect all these chapters. Here are some:

- ✓ In all four chapters there is a beast with seven heads and ten horns.
- ✓ Revelation 12 and 17 both refer to the flowing and drying up of the

persecuting waters of the Euphrates (Revelation 12:15; 16:12; 17:1, 2, 15). On the other hand, Revelation 13 contains the same idea when it describes a seven-headed sea beast that persecuted God's saints for 42 months and at the end of the period received a deadly wound on one of its heads (the same head that spewed out waters in Revelation 12:15) that suspended persecution for a time (Revelation 13:3).

- ✓ Revelation 13 describes the sea beast ruling over multitudes, nations and peoples for 42 months (Revelation 13:7) and in chapter 17 the harlot is described likewise (Revelation 17:15).
- ✓ The sea beast of Revelation 13 persecutes the saints (Revelation 13:7) and the harlot of Revelation 17 does likewise (Revelation 17:6).
- ✓ Revelation 12, and 13 describe a time period for the first stage of persecution but Revelation 17 has no time period. This indicates that the persecution of Revelation 17 is future when prophetic time is no longer (Revelation 10:6).
- ✓ The harlot of Revelation 17 has two allies that do her bidding, the kings of the earth (Revelation 17:1, 2; 18:24) and the daughters (Revelation 17:5). Likewise, in Revelation 12 and 13 the dragon, symbolizing the kings, and the beast from the earth do the bidding of the sea beast:

"Kings and rulers and governors have placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist, and are represented as the dragon who goes to make war with the saints—with those who keep the commandments of God and who have the faith of Jesus." TM, p. 39

- ✓ Revelation 17 describes the second and final stage of the war that was initially described in Revelation 12:17.
- ✓ Revelation 16:13, 19 describes three allies (the dragon, the beast and the false prophet) and they are called 'Babylon'. Likewise, the harlot of Revelation 17 has the name 'Babylon'.

Which of the Seven Angels?

Revelation 16 describes seven angels who will pour out seven plagues upon the earth after probation's close. Significantly, the vision that follows in the next chapter was given to John by one of the seven angels who poured out the seven plagues (Revelation 17:1; 16:12). So the question that begs to be asked is which of the seven plague angels in Revelation 16 came back to speak with John in chapter 17.

The very next chapter provides the answer. Revelation 17 describes a harlot woman who sits upon many waters (17:1) and upon her forehead is the inscription, "MYSTERY: BABYLON THE GREAT" (17:5).

It is common knowledge that a harlot woman in Bible prophecy symbolizes an apostate church or religion. What is the name of the river upon which the ancient city of Babylon sat? The Scriptures and a geographical survey of the region provide the unequivocal answer. The ancient city/harlot sat upon the many waters of the great River Euphrates (Jeremiah 51:12, 13; cf. Revelation 12:15). This is important because it means that we must look for the plague angel who spoke about the river Euphrates and that bowl angel was the sixth (Revelation 16:12). In other words, the angel who poured out the sixth plague upon the river Euphrates in Revelation 16:12 came back to John in chapter 17 to further explain its meaning. So, Revelation 17 is an explanation and expansion of Revelation 16:12-16. We must not forget this important detail because the key to understanding Revelation 17 lies in the waters upon which the harlot sits.

The harlot is also called that "great city which reigns over the kings of the earth" (Revelation 17:18). This means that the 'harlot' and the 'city' refer to the same apostate system but with a different emphasis. While the Babylonian harlot is a symbol of Babylon's religious side, the city symbolizes her civil or political side.

We know that Revelation 17 is an explanation and expansion of the last three plagues of chapter 16 because they contain common themes:

- ✓ Babylon (Revelation 16:18, 19; 17:5)
- ✓ Waters (16:12; 17:1, 2, 15)

- ✓ Kings (16:13, 14; 17:2, 12-14)
- ✓ Drying up (16:12; 17:16)
- ✓ War and Christ's victory (16:18, 19; 17:14)

The Harlot Woman (17:1)

The harlot woman is the central figure of the vision. She sits on the many waters, on the seven-headed dragon beast, and on the seven mountains. She fornicates with the kings of the earth. She gives inebriating wine to the kings and the nations. She clothes herself in purple and scarlet and adorns herself with gold, silver, and precious stones to impress her lovers. She sheds the blood of the saints. She rules over the nations. She has daughters that do her bidding (cf. Mark 6:18ff) and at the end, she will be hated by the ten horns/kings on the seventh head of the dragon beast. So, what system does this harlot woman represent?

In the Old Testament a harlot symbolized apostate Israel (Ezekiel 16:15, 16, chapter 23, and the book of Hosea) and Ellen White explicitly wrote that the harlot of Revelation 17, in its final stages, represents the apostate Roman Catholic papacy:

"In Revelation 17 Babylon is represented as a woman—a figure which is used in the Bible as the symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church... The power that for so many centuries maintained despotic sway over the monarchs of Christendom is Rome." GC, pp. 381, 382

As indicated before, the harlot woman may, in a broader sense, represent apostate religion that has piggybacked on seven civil powers of the world beginning with Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon and ending with a resuscitated papacy when its deadly wound is healed. However, the harlot of Revelation 17 represents, more narrowly, the final condemnation of the papal system and her cohorts for adulterating the truth and oppressing God's people (Revelation 17:1, 6).

Her Fornication (17:2; 18:3)

The harlot fornicates with the political rulers of the world. In what sense does she do this? The Bible refers to the church as Christ's wife (Jeremiah 6:2; Ephesians 5:25-27) and as His wife, she must be faithful to Him as her one and only legitimate husband. However, when the church seeks out other lovers and is unfaithful to Jesus, she becomes a harlot.

The harlot represents an apostate religion that allies herself with the kings of the earth and influences them to support her agenda. Thus, fornication occurs when the church unites with the state in an unholy spiritual love affair to persecute those who do not support her agenda. As much is confirmed by Ellen White as she described the papacy:

"It was by departure ['apostasy'] from the Lord, and alliance with the heathen, that the Jewish church became a harlot; and Rome, corrupting herself in like manner by seeking the support of worldly powers, receives a like condemnation." GC, p. 382

Ellen White described what will happen when the Protestant churches follow in the steps of Rome by unequally yoking with the state:

"Whenever the church has obtained secular power, she has employed it to punish dissent from her doctrines. Protestant churches that have followed in the steps of Rome by forming alliance with worldly powers have manifested a similar desire to restrict liberty of conscience." GC, p. 443

The act of sitting (17:1)

Revelation 17 not only describes the Babylonian harlot sitting on many waters (17:1, 15), but also on a scarlet seven-headed beast (17:3) and on seven mountains (17:9). How is it possible for her to sit on all three at the same time? We shall answer this riddle a little later in our study.

The act of sitting on the beast, the waters and the mountains, means that the harlot claims to have global dominion over them, (13:7; 17:1, 15) In fact, Revelation 17:24 explicitly states that Babylon reigns over the kings of the earth. Thus, the harlot is a religious system that exerts political control by uniting the church with the power of the state.

The Beast and the Waters (17:1, 15)

What do the waters upon which the harlot sits represent? Revelation 17:15 gives us the answer:

*“The waters upon which the **harlot sits** are nations, multitudes, tongues and people.” (Revelation 17:15)*

Contrary to common belief, the waters do not represent nations, multitudes, tongues and peoples in general, but rather in a very **narrow sense**. Revelation elsewhere points out that the **wicked** are like an overwhelming flood whose intent is to wipe God’s people off the face of the earth (cf. Revelation 12:13-15). Thus, the prophet Isaiah wrote that the enemies of God’s people make a noise like the noise of the **seas** and a rushing like the rushing of **many waters** (cf. Jeremiah 51:13) but that God will rebuke them:

*“Woe to the **multitude** of many **people** who make a noise **like** the roar of the **seas**, and to the **rushing of nations** that make a rushing like the **rushing of mighty waters!**¹³ The **nations will rush** like the rushing of **many waters**; but God will **rebuke them** and they will **flee far away**, and be **chased** like the chaff of the mountains before the wind, like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.” (Isaiah 17:12, 13; cf. Psalm 46:1-3, 6, 7)*

Clearly, the expressions ‘rebuke them’, ‘flee far away’, and ‘chased like the chaff’ are synonymous with ‘dry up’ or ‘remove their threat’!

Later on in our study we will find that the **waters** upon which the harlot sits and the **body** of the scarlet seven-headed beast are interchangeable. This is clearly indicated by the fact that, while the woman is portrayed **in the vision** as sitting upon many waters, (Revelation 17:1) she is depicted as sitting on a scarlet colored beast in the angelic **interpretation** (Revelation 17:3)!

The Scarlet Beast/Waters

Why are the beast and the waters **scarlet**? The immediate and broader contexts indicate that it is because the harlot has blood on her hands. Elsewhere in the book of Revelation we perceive the bloodthirsty rage of dragon against the woman’s SEED, the woman, and the final remnant of her SEED (Revelation 12:3, 6, 17; cf. Revelation 6:4; Isaiah 14:29; 27:1). The scarlet color of the dragon

beast/waters highlights the bloodthirsty intentions of the harlot toward God's people! The scarlet color of the harlot's garment seems to further highlight her murderous character (Revelation 17:4; 18:16).

The harlot's rage is expanded in Revelation 17:6 where we are told that she (who sits on the scarlet beast/waters) is '*filled with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus*'. We find a further expansion in Revelation 16:4-7 where the enemies of God's remnant are given blood to drink because they have shed their blood. The Loud Cry chapter adds that '*in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.*' (Revelation 18:24). It is noteworthy that in the Old Testament, the root of the word 'red' is 'blood'!

Names of Blasphemy

The dragon of Revelation 17 is full of names of blasphemy (17:3; 13:) In the Bible, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is the unpardonable sin. The sin against the Holy Spirit is not one particular sin but rather the result of a continuous rejection of the voice of the Holy Spirit through the Word which sears the conscience as with a hot iron (1 Corinthians 4:2). It means attributing the work of God to the devil (Matthew 12:24, 31, 32) and the work of the devil to God.

The papacy, who rides the dragon is also guilty of blasphemy (Daniel 7:8, 11, 25; Revelation 13:1, 5, 6). The names of blasphemy are not only on the dragon beast, but also on the harlot because the harlot uses the kings of the earth to war against God's people. In fact, Ellen White spoke of the political leaders as the dragon.

"Kings and rulers and governors have placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist, and are represented as the dragon who goes to make war with the saints—with those who keep the commandments of God and who have the faith of Jesus [Revelation 12:17]." TM, p. 39

The apostle Paul referred to the papal system as 'the man of sin' and the 'lawless one' who sits in the temple of God—the church—and claims to have the power and prerogatives of God. The papacy received the kingdom when the restraint of the Roman Empire was taken out of the way (2 Thessalonians 2:6,7). The papal system operates 'according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs,

and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish' and 'did not receive the love of the truth'. It is a system that 'did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.' (2 Thessalonians 2:9-11).

Revelation 18:2 adds that the system will become the 'dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!' And yet the papacy allied with apostate Protestantism will claim that the Loud Cry message comes from Satan and will use the civil powers and their citizens to persecute God's people:

"As the Protestant churches have been seeking the favor of the world, false charity has blinded their eyes. They do not see but that it is right to believe good of all evil; and as the inevitable result, they will finally believe evil of all good. Instead of standing in defense of the faith once delivered to the saints, they are now, as it were, apologizing to Rome for their uncharitable opinion of her, begging pardon for their bigotry." GC pp. 571, 472

Blasphemy means provoking God by claiming to exercise His powers on earth (John 10:30-33) such as the power to forgive sins (Mark 2:7) and to change God's law (Daniel 7:25). The word 'blasphemy' is also employed in the Old Testament to describe opposition to God in the person of His people (cf. Ezekiel 37:3; 35:12).

The Bible gives **titles and functions** that belong exclusively to the **Creator God** but that are claimed by the papacy:

- ✓ Christ's **representative** on earth is the **Holy Spirit** (John 14-16) but the papacy claims that it is the pope.
- ✓ God alone is our **Father** (Matthew 23:9) but the pope encourages people to call him the holy father.
- ✓ Scripture teaches that we are to **bow in reverence** only to God (Acts 10:25, 26; Revelation 19:10; 22:8, 9), but the pope allows the faithful to bow before him.
- ✓ The Bible teaches that God alone can **forgive sins** (Mark 2:7) but the pope and his priests claim to have that power.

- ✓ The Bible affirms that God alone is **infallible** in his proclamations (James 1:17) but the pope claims that when he speaks Ex-Cathedra, his proclamations are without error.
- ✓ The Bible claims that God alone has the right to **set up kings** and **depose them** (Daniel 2:21) but the pope has taught that only he has that power.
- ✓ The Bible teaches that God alone can **judge** all and be judged by none (John 5:22, 27) but the pope has claimed to have that power.
- ✓ God established the **seventh day** as **His memorial** of creation (Exodus 20:8-11) but the pope claims to have changed it to Sunday.
- ✓ The Bible teaches that we are **saved by grace** through faith, that Christ has offered **one** sacrifice for sin, and that He is the **only** mediator between God and men (Hebrews 10:12, 14; 1 Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 2:8, 9). However, the papacy usurps these salvific functions and places them on earth (Daniel 8:10-12).

Revelation 13 picks up on this, accusing the sea beast (representing the same power as the harlot) of opening "*his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.*" (Revelation 13:6). Thus, the papacy manifests the same spirit as its mentor Lucifer, who in heaven aspired to sit in the temple of God claiming to be God (Isaiah 14:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4).

The Harlot's Attire

Purple and scarlet are the colors of **royalty** (Revelation 17:4; John 19:2, 5; Matthew 27:28) and the harlot sits on or **reigns** over multitudes, nations, tongues and people. She is attired with gold, silver, precious stones and pearls. This indicates that she is a **rich** and **ostentatious** power whose intent is to attract the attention of the political rulers to her external beauty which hides her internal rot (cf. 2 Kings 9:30). She acts similarly to apostate Israel who clothed herself with all this **paraphernalia** to entice the kings of the surrounding nations to fornicate with her (Ezekiel 16:15-17).

Ellen White wrote regarding the attire of the harlot in Revelation 17:4 and applied it directly to the papacy:

"The purple and scarlet color, the gold and precious stones and pearls, vividly picture the magnificence and more than kingly pomp affected by the haughty see of Rome." *GC*, p. 382.

It is common knowledge that the Roman Catholic clergy's predominant colors are **purple and scarlet**. The papacy deceives the political powers of the world and the multitudes by its imposing ritual, bewitching music, majestic architecture, impressive vestments, priceless works of art, and cunning diplomacy. Ellen White wrote about this ostentation that wows the civil powers of the world and their subjects:

"The religious service of the Roman Church is a most impressive ceremonial. Its gorgeous display and solemn rites fascinate the senses of the people and silence the voice of reason and of conscience. The eye is charmed. Magnificent churches, imposing processions, golden altars, jeweled shrines, choice paintings, and exquisite sculpture appeal to the love of beauty. The ear also is captivated. The music is unsurpassed. The rich notes of the deep-toned organ, blending with the melody of many voices as it swells through the lofty domes and pillared aisles of her grand cathedrals, cannot fail to impress the mind with awe and reverence."

"This outward splendor, pomp, and ceremony, that only mocks the longings of the sin-sick soul, is an evidence of inward corruption." *GC*, p. 566

Ellen White once visited the Roman Catholic Cathedral in **Milan** and at first seemed to be impressed with its grandeur but in the end she referred to it as 'a vast pile of extravagance':

"Chief among these is the Cathedral, which, next to St. Peter's at Rome, is the largest church in Europe. Built entirely of white marble, and adorned as it is on the exterior with three thousand marble statues, ninety-eight Gothic turrets, and a tower three hundred and sixty feet high, one cannot fail to be impressed with its grandeur and immensity, and the artistic skill displayed in its design and execution. And yet we could only look upon it as a vast pile of extravagance."
RH, June 1, 1886

The Golden Cup with Wine

The golden cup in the harlot's hand contains the fermented wine of Babylon (Jeremiah 51:7). The cup could well represent the magisterium of the papal church which it refers to as 'the deposit of the faith'. This phrase refers to the endless oral traditions that have supposedly been passed down by apostolic succession from generation to generation, many which contradict the Bible (cf. Mark 7:1-13; DA, p. 467).

When Babylon gives her wine to the kings and the inhabitants of the earth, (Rev. 14:8; 17:2; 18:3) they became spiritually drunk. For the harlot, drinking the wine is not optional. The text tells us that she makes all nations drink her wine (Rev. 14:8; 17:2) on pain of serious consequences. The harlot's wine is called '*the wine of the wrath of her fornication*' because drinking it awakens wrath against those who refuse to drink (Rev. 14:8; 18:3):

"Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand that made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore, the nations are deranged." (Jeremiah 51:7)

Revelation 17 identifies the wine as Babylon's 'abominations and the filthiness of her fornication' (Revelation 17:4). That is, the cup is full of wine but the wine symbolizes the harlot's abominations. Thus, the words 'wine' and 'abominations' are interchangeable and what are Babylon's abominations? In order to find an answer, we must search for the word in other places in Scripture, and as we do, we discover that it includes several things:

- ✓ The wise man Solomon gave a list of seven things that are an abomination to God:

"These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹ a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren. (Proverbs 16:16-19).

- ✓ Fashioning idols and bowing before them is an abomination (Exodus 20:4-6; Deuteronomy 7:25, 26; 27:14, 15).

- ✓ Delving into the **occult** such as attempting to communicate with the dead is an abomination (Deuteronomy 18:9-13; cf. Isaiah 8:19,20).
- ✓ Prayer is an abomination when we refuse to pay heed to God's **law** (Proverbs 12:22; 28:9).
- ✓ Thinking that we can be saved by **our merits** or works is an abomination (Luke 16:15).

The papacy caters both to those who disdain the law and those who believe that they can justify themselves by their works:

*"A prayerful study of the Bible would show Protestants the real character of the papacy and would cause them to abhor and to shun it; but many are so wise in their own conceit that they feel no need of humbly seeking God that they may be led into the truth. Although priding themselves on their enlightenment, they are ignorant both of the Scriptures and of the power of God. They must have some means of **quieting their consciences** [two ways of doing it], and they seek that which is least spiritual and humiliating. What they desire is a method of **forgetting God** that shall **pass as a method** of remembering Him. The papacy is well adapted to meet the **wants** of all these. It is prepared for two classes of mankind embracing nearly the whole world--those who would be **saved by their merits**, and those who would be **saved in their sins**. Here is the secret of its power." GC, p. 572*

- ✓ Forsaking God as a legitimate husband and committing spiritual **adultery** with the practices of pagan nations is an abomination (Ezekiel 23:35-45; Jeremiah 13:26, 27).
- ✓ Partaking of unclean **meats** is an abomination (Leviticus 11:10,11,12,13, 20, 23, 41, 42; Deuteronomy 14:3).
- ✓ Gay sexual relationships are an abomination (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13).
- ✓ The failure to distinguish between **male and female** dress is an abomination (Deuteronomy 22:5).
- ✓ Justifying the wicked, condemning the righteous and shedding innocent **blood** is an abomination (Ezekiel 22:2; Proverbs 16:17; 17:15).

- ✓ Sun **worship** was the greatest of all abominations practiced by God's own professed people in the days of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 8:16). The observance of Sunday as a day of worship by those who profess to be God's people is idolatry because it is a 'sabbath' made by the **hands of men** (Matthew 24:15; 5T, pp. 451, 464. For this reason, Ellen White repeatedly referred to Sunday as the 'idol sabbath' (cf. LDE, p. 146).

Ellen White understood that the wine represents false doctrines that intoxicate those who drink:

*"The fallen denominational churches are Babylon. Babylon has been fostering **poisonous doctrines**, the **wine of error**. This wine of error is made up of **false doctrines**, such as the **natural immortality** of the soul, the **eternal torment** of the wicked, the denial of the **pre-existence** of Christ prior to His birth in Bethlehem, and advocating and exalting the **first day of the week** above God's holy and sanctified day. These and **kindred errors** [there are many others] are presented to the world by the **various churches**, and thus the Scriptures are fulfilled that say, 'For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.' It is a wrath which is created by false doctrines, and when **kings and presidents** drink this wine of the wrath of her fornication, they are **stirred with anger** against those who will not come into harmony with the false and satanic **heresies** which exalt the false Sabbath, and lead men to trample underfoot God's memorial." TM, pp. 61, 62*

Ellen White's description brings to mind the warning that Solomon gave to kings about the serious **moral consequences** of imbibing wine:

*"It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink; ⁵ lest they drink and **forget the law**, and **pervert the justice** of all the afflicted." (Proverbs 31:4, 5)*

In her previous statement, Ellen White blamed the apostate **churches** for giving the multitudes of the world the wine of Babylon. However, in The Great Controversy, p. 389 she was more specific, indicting **the ministers** and the men of learning of the apostate churches as the guilty party in the spiritual intoxication of the world:

"When faithful teachers expound the word of God, there arise men of learning, ministers professing to understand the Scriptures, who denounce sound doctrine as heresy, and thus turn away inquirers after truth. Were it not that the world is hopelessly intoxicated with the wine of Babylon, multitudes would be convicted and converted by the plain, cutting truths of the word of God. But religious faith appears so confused and discordant that the people know not what to believe as truth. The sin of the world's impenitence lies at the door of the church." GC, p. 389

After quoting **Revelation 17:1-4** Ellen White identified the papacy as the power that gives wine to the nations:

"In the seventeenth of Revelation is foretold the destruction of all the churches who corrupt themselves by idolatrous devotion to the service of the papacy, those who have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. [Rev. 17:1-4 quoted.]

Thus is represented the papal power, which with all deceivableness of unrighteousness, by outside attraction and gorgeous display, deceives all nations; promising them, as did Satan our first parents, all good to those who receive its mark, and all harm to those who oppose its fallacies." Ellen G. White, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, volume 7*, p. 983.

At the end of the time of trouble, the rulers and multitudes who have imbibed the poisonous doctrines of the harlot and her daughters will sober up from their drunken stupor and shift their wrath from the faithful remnant to the harlot who has made them drunk (Revelation 17:16). Ellen White described the moment when the multitudes will awaken from their drunken stupor:

"The people see that they have been deluded. They accuse one another of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers. Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception. The multitudes are filled with fury. "We are lost!" they cry, "and you are the cause of our ruin;" and they turn upon the false shepherds. The very ones that once admired them most will pronounce the most dreadful curses upon them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God's people are now

employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is strife and bloodshed.” GC, pp. 655, 656

God's Faithful People

In all **three chapters** (Revelation 12, 13, and 17) where we find the seven-headed, ten-horned beasts, their great sin is that they are **at war** with the people of God:

- ✓ **Revelation 12:13, 15:** The faithful church is described as a **woman** whom the dragon **intends to drown** with the torrent it spews from its mouth.
- ✓ **Revelation 12:17:** The faithful church is portrayed as the **remnant** of the woman's SEED against whom the dragon wars.
- ✓ **Revelation 13:7; cf. Daniel 7:22, 25, 27:** The faithful church is called 'the **saints**' and the little horn or beast **persecutes** them.
- ✓ **Revelation 17:6:** God's people are described as the **saints** and the **martyrs** of Jesus and the harlot attempts to drown them with the many waters she sits on.

Ellen White applied Revelation 17:6 to the career of the Roman Catholic papacy:

*“The power that for so many centuries maintained **despotic sway** over the monarchs of Christendom is **Rome**. . . And no other power could be so truly declared ‘drunken with the blood of the saints’ as that church which has so cruelly persecuted the followers of Christ. Babylon is also charged with the sin of unlawful connection with ‘the kings of the earth.’” GC, p. 382.*

Mother, Daughters and Kings

Revelation 12 and 13 describe a wicked triumvirate composed of the **dragon** (Revelation 12), the **beast** from the sea (Revelation 13:1-10; cf. 19:19) and the **lamb-horned** beast from the earth (Revelation 13:11-18). **Revelation 16:13** describes the same axis of evil as the **dragon**, the **beast** and the **false prophet** (cf. Revelation 19:20) and Revelation 17 as the **kings** of the earth, the **harlot** and her **daughters**. This suggests that the three chapters contain the same subject matter and expand upon one another.

The harlot's name is **Babylon** and she is described as the **mother** of harlots (17:5). If she is the **mother**, then she must have **daughters**. The book of Revelation also refers to the harlot's daughters as the **false prophet** (16:13; 19:20) and the **lamb-horned beast** that rises from the earth (Revelation 13:11).

In order to understand how this **evil trio** of harlot mother, daughters and political rulers relate to each other, it would be helpful to review the Old Testament story of Elijah and his three enemies, King Ahab, the adulteress Jezebel and the false prophets of the sun-god Baal. It is also helpful to study the story of John the Baptist and his three enemies, King Herod, his adulteress mistress Herodias and her daughter Salome (Mark 6:14-28).

The **Protestant churches** that were born from Roman Catholicism in the **sixteenth century** failed to fully sever their relationship with their harlot mother. Instead of completing the Reformation and forsaking their mother's false doctrines once and for all, they fell into apostasy, conserving many of the mother's teachings such as the sacredness of Sunday, the immortality of the soul, and an eternally burning hell. The book of Revelation tells us that the daughters/false prophets will make an image of their mother by joining **church and state**. In fact, and ironically, the daughters will help the mother recover the power she lost at the end of the 1260 years. Ellen White explained the relationship between mother and daughters:

*"Babylon is said to be 'the mother of harlots.' By her daughters must be symbolized churches that **cling to her doctrines** and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an **unlawful alliance** with the world."* GC, pp. 382, 383

During Vatican Council II, Popes John XXIII and Paul VI referred to the Catholic Church as the **Mother** and the Protestant churches as her **alienated children**:

John XXIII addressed the Protestant observers at the opening of **Vatican Council II** (1962-1965):

*"... She [the Roman Catholic Church] wants to be an affectionate, kind and patient **mother**, she is moved by compassion and goodness towards her **alienated***

children” (Ernesto Balducci, John: The Transitional Pope, transl., Dorothy White [New York: Hill Book Company, 1964], p. 269.

This **conciliatory tone** sounds nothing like the church that slew the saints of the Most High during the 1260 years. Ellen White described the deceitfulness of this system:

“It is a part of her policy to assume the character which will best accomplish her purpose; but beneath the variable appearance of the chameleon, she conceals the invariable venom of the serpent.” GC, p. 571

Pope Paul VI also addressed the Protestant observers at Vatican Council II in the name of the Mother:

“Because of their position, separated brethren are the object of deep and tender affection on the part of the Mother Church. . . It is a love that feels grief and sadness, the love of a heart wounded by estrangement, because the estrangement prevents our brethren from enjoying so many privileges and rights, and makes them lose so much grace. But perhaps for this very reason its love is all the deeper and more burning. . .” Cardinal Augustin Bea, The Unity of Christians, ed., Bernard Leeming [New York: Herder and Herder, 1963], p. 140

John O’Brien who for many years was a professor of theology at Notre Dame University, and wrote some 40 books, explained the link between the Mother and the daughters as regards the observance of Sunday:

“That observance [of Sunday] remains as a reminder of the Mother Church from which the non-Catholic sects broke away—like a boy running away from home but still carrying in his pocket a picture of his mother or a lock of her hair.” John O’Brien, The Faith of Millions (Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., 1974) pp. 400, 401.

Ellen White offered the following chilling description of the relationship between the Mother and the Daughters in the end time. I include my own remarks in brackets to explain the various elements of the quotation:

“I saw that the two-horned beast [the false prophet—Revelation 13:11] had a dragon’s mouth [speaks like the dragon of Revelation 12:17], and that his power was in his head, and that the decree [to keep Sunday] would go out of his mouth [the decree is the death decree against those who refuse to keep

Sunday]. Then I saw the Mother of Harlots: [the papacy] that the mother was not the daughters, [apostate Protestantism] but separate and distinct from them [this indicates that Roman Catholicism in the Old World and Protestantism in the New, cover the period of two separate heads on the beast of Revelation 17]. She [the Mother] has had her day, and it is past [during the 1260 years; but she has a deadly wound given her in the past], and her daughters, the Protestant sects, were the next to come on the stage and act out the same mind [notice the allusion to Revelation 17:17] that the mother had when she persecuted the saints [during the 1260 years]. I saw that as the mother has been declining in power [because she is wounded], the daughters had been growing, and soon they will exercise the power [clearly a separate kingdom] once exercised by the mother.

I saw the nominal church and nominal Adventists, like Judas, would betray us to the Catholics to obtain their influence [of the Catholics] to come against the truth. The saints then will be an obscure people, little known to the Catholics; but the churches [Protestant] and nominal [in name only and not in reality] Adventists who know of our faith and customs (for they hated us on account of the Sabbath, for they could not refute it) will betray the saints and report them to the Catholics as those who disregard the institutions of the people; that is, that they keep the Sabbath and disregard Sunday.

Then the Catholics bid the Protestants [the mother (the seventh head) stands behind the daughters to get them to issue a death decree—just like Herodias stood behind her daughter and Jezebel behind Ahab] to go forward, and issue a decree that all who will not observe the first day of the week, instead of the seventh day, shall be slain. And the Catholics, whose numbers are large, will stand by the Protestants. The Catholics will give their power to the image of the beast. And the Protestants will work as their mother worked before them [during the 1260 years] to destroy the saints.” Ellen G. White, Spaulding Magan Collection, pp. 1, 2.

This statement indicates that we have far more to fear from apostate Protestantism and nominal Adventists than the papacy. In a related statement, Ellen White expanded upon the meaning of Revelation 17:1-4:

"In the seventeenth of Revelation is foretold the destruction of all the churches [Protestant] who corrupt themselves by idolatrous devotion to the service of the papacy [their Mother], those who have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. [Rev. 17:1-4 quoted.]

Thus is represented the papal power [the harlot], which with all deceivableness of unrighteousness, by outside attraction and gorgeous display, [her external attire] deceives all nations; promising them, as did Satan our first parents, all good to those who receive its mark, and all harm to those who oppose its fallacies. The power which has the deepest inward corruption will make the greatest display, [once again her attire] and will clothe itself with the most elaborate signs of power. The Bible plainly declares that this covers a corrupt and deceiving wickedness. 'Upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth.' **[Revelation 17:5 applied to the papacy]**

Revelation 13:11-18

Let's analyze the description of the earth beast/false prophet that will restore the sword of the state to the papacy and free her from her captivity. I include my own explanatory notes in brackets:

"Then I saw another beast coming up [used of plant just sprouting in Matthew 13:7] out of the earth [in contrast to the beasts from the sea], and he had two horns like a lamb [a symbol of Christ 29 times in Revelation] and spoke like a dragon [a symbol of Satan working through Rome in Revelation 12 and 13].¹² And he [the beast from the earth] exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence [at the first beast's commissioning], and causes [by the use of compulsion] the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast whose deadly wound was healed [the papacy].¹³ He [the land beast] performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men [Revelation 19:20—reminiscent of the stories of Elijah and Pentecost].¹⁴ And he [the false prophet] deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of [at the commissioning of] the beast, telling those [NIV: 'he ordered them'] who dwell on the earth to make an image to [in honor of in the NIV: dative case] the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.¹⁵ He [the first beast in the

light of Ellen White's comment in Spaulding-Magan, pp. 1, 2] was granted power to give breath to the image of [genitive case] the beast, that the image of [genitive case] the beast should both speak [through its legislative and judicial authority] and cause [uses compulsion] as many as would not worship the image of [genitive case] the beast to be killed.¹⁶ He causes [NIV: 'forced everyone] all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark [Sunday observance] on their right hand [out of convenience] or on their foreheads [out of conviction]¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name [666]."¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate [psephizo: see Luke 14:28] the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666."

In summary, the beast from the earth (the daughters) will be the sea beast's (the mother's) puppet to enthrone her once more:

- ✓ The false prophet speaks like the dragon and the dragon represents Satan working through Rome in its various stages (Revelation 12:3, 6, 13:17; 13:11).
- ✓ The earth beast exercises all the authority of the first beast (Revelation 13:12).
- ✓ The earth beast makes an image of the first beast (Revelation 13:15).
- ✓ The earth beast makes an image in honor of the first beast (Revelation 13:14).
- ✓ The earth beast does everything in the presence or at the commissioning of the first beast (Revelation 13:12, 14).
- ✓ The earth beast forces all its citizens to worship the first beast (Revelation 13:12).
- ✓ The earth beast imposes the mark of the first beast (Revelation 3:16, 17).
- ✓ The false prophet performed signs in the presence of the first beast 'to deceive those who received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image' (Revelation 13:13; 19:20).

The River Dragon

In order to comprehend the meaning of the seven-headed, ten-horned dragon upon which the harlot sits, we must first understand how ancient nations perceived river dragons. A word of caution is in order: Their way of thinking is not ours today and therefore we must put ourselves in their shoes.

My mentor in college at Andrews University was S. Douglas Waterhouse, an expert in ancient middle eastern culture and symbolism. Dr. Waterhouse wrote an incisive article about the ancient understanding of river dragons which helps us understand Revelation 17 (S. Douglas Waterhouse, The Archeology of Jordan and other Studies: Essays in Honor of Dr. Siegfried Horn, "The River Dragon: Its Meaning in Scripture," Lawrence T. Geraty, editor, Andrews University Press, 1986.

Dr. Waterhouse wrote that in the mythology of ancient cultures, mountains were conceived of as the heads of a great cosmic river serpent/dragon. According to the pre-scientific world view of these societies, the mountains/heads would spew out waters (cf. headwaters) which would flow down the mountainside to form a riverbed in the valley. As the river twisted tortuously down the valley, it looked like the contorted body of a great river serpent/dragon. According to their world view, when the river was at flood stage it overflowed its banks and sprouted wings. The prophet Isaiah picked up on this imagery as he described the Assyrian invasion into the Holy Land (cf. Isaiah 8:7, 8).

It is of the utmost importance to keep in mind that Revelation 12:15-16 and 17:15, 9, 15 are drawing upon this ancient concept. However, we know that in the book of Revelation the river dragon is not literal but rather serves as a vehicle to teach spiritual truth. In Revelation, the mountains/heads that spew out the waters symbolize kingdoms and the waters that flow from the heads (the body of the dragon) represent multitudes, nations, tongues and peoples (Revelation 17:15).

Thus, nations, multitudes, tongues and peoples are actually the body of the dragon. This is the reason why the harlot is described as sitting on a scarlet beast and also on the waters. In other words, the waters and the scarlet beast upon which the harlot sits are interchangeable. And as we have pointed out,

the waters/dragon are scarlet because they are filled with the **blood** of God's people (17:6).

The reliability of this ancient concept as it applies to Revelation 17 is seen in the fact that the seven heads are also identified as **seven mountains**. As we have already pointed out, in antiquity, the mountains were conceived as the heads of a dragon.

It is crucially important to remember that while the head/mountain is spewing out waters, the body of the dragon is alive. However, when the heads/mountains cease to spew out waters, the body of the dragon is dead. Thus the beast is **alive or dead** depending on whether the harlot is able to use the heads and waters to persecute God's people. When the harlot tells the kings and their constituents to persecute God's people, the dragon beast is alive. When the civil powers uphold democratic principles and keep aloof from the church, the dragon beast is dead!

The Bloodthirsty Waters Flow and Dry

A careful comparison of Revelation 12, 13, and 17 reveals that the persecuting waters upon which the harlot woman will sit when her deadly wound is healed had already freely flowed once before during the 1260 years. At the end of that period the waters dried up when the territory of what would become the United States, helped the woman, and France and other states in Europe withdrew their support in the aftermath of the French Revolution (Revelation 12:13-16; 13:3, 4).

Henry (Cardinal) Manning, the convert from the Church of England to Catholicism, in 1862 wrote how the states of Europe had withdrawn their support from the papacy:

*"See this Catholic Church, this Church of God, feeble and weak, rejected even by the **very nations called Catholic**. There is Catholic **France**, and Catholic **Germany**, and Catholic **Italy** giving up this exploded figment of the **temporal power** of the Vicar of Jesus Christ.' And so, because the Church **seems weak**, and the Vicar of the Son of God is renewing the Passion of his Master upon earth, therefore we are scandalized, therefore we **turn our faces from him.**" (The Temporal Power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, pp. 140, 141)*

A detailed study of Revelation 12, 13, 16 and 17 also reveals, in different ways, that the bloodthirsty waters will **flow again** from the dragon's mouth (Revelation 12:17; 13:11; 17:1, 2) only to **dry** up for the **final time** when the waters of the symbolic Euphrates cease to flow at outpouring of the sixth plague (Revelation 16:12). At that time, the political rulers **of the world** and their subjects (the waters) will forsake and turn against the harlot once and for all (Revelation 16:12; 17:16).

Let's summarize the **ebb and flow** of the waters in Revelation 12, 13, and 16 and 17.

The Perspective of Revelation 12

Revelation 12:15 describes a seven-headed (no doubt each head having a mouth), scarlet dragon spewing water out of a **single mouth** for 'time, times and half a time' with the intention of drowning the woman. However, according to the very next verse, when the persecuting waters were at flood stage, the earth helped the woman and **swallowed** up the waters:

*"So the serpent spewed water out of his **mouth** [singular] like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away **by the flood**.¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up **the flood** which the dragon had spewed out of his **mouth** [singular]."*

One wonders what happened after the waters were dried up. Did they flow again? The answer is in the very next verse. Verse 17 explains that the drying up of the waters by the earth enraged the same scarlet dragon that had persecuted the woman, and after a period of **respite**, it manifested its rage once more, this time against the remnant of the woman's SEED. This brought about a second stage of persecution, with no time period attached, (cf. Matthew 24:9, 21, 22) when the bloodthirsty waters would flow once more (Revelation 16:12; 17:1, 2, 15):

*"And the [same seven-headed] **dragon** was enraged with the woman, and he **went to make war** with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Revelation 12:17)*

Although the water of the river in Revelation 12:15 is unnamed, we can safely conclude that it was the great River 'Euphrates'. If the dragon of Revelation

12:13-16, and the harlot of Revelation 17 both represent the papacy, then the river/waters must be the same in both chapters.

Joshua 24:2, 3, 14, 15 describes the Euphrates River euphemistically as '**the Flood**' In fact, some Bible versions such as the English Standard Version (ESV) and the New Century Version (NCV) replace the word 'flood' with 'Euphrates'.

Genesis 15:18 describes the Euphrates as '**the great River**' (cf. Isaiah 8:7, 8; 17:12, 13; 59:19; Revelation 16:12). It is hardly a coincidence that the **great** harlot sits upon the **great** river Euphrates in **great** Babylon (Daniel 4:30; Revelation 17:1, 5) and that the waters will eventually dry up on her and lead to her fall (Revelation 16:12). In short, **the** flood (with the definite article in verse 16) of Revelation 12:15, 16 which the dragon spewed out his mouth during the '*time, times and half a time*' is the great symbolic River Euphrates.

The word translated 'flood' in the KJV of Revelation 12:15, 16 is πόταμος, the selfsame word that appears in the parable of the **wise and foolish** contractors who built their houses on the rock and on the sand (Matthew 7:24-27). Most uses of the word πόταμος in the New Testament simply refer simply to a river (cf. Mark 1:5; Acts 16:13; Revelation 22:1, 2). However, in the parable of the wise and foolish builders, Jesus was not referring to a mere river but rather to a raging torrent at **flood stage**. For this reason, the KJV translates the word 'river' in Revelation 12:15, 16 correctly as 'flood'. This translation is supported by the fact that the parallel passage in Luke qualifies the word πόταμος with πλειμύρα which does not refer to a simple 'river' but rather to a 'torrential flood':

Luke 6:48, 49:

*'And when the **flood** [πλειμύρα] arose, the **stream** [πόταμος] beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.'*

The Perspective of Revelation 13:1-10

Revelation 13:1-10 **expands** upon the prophecy of Revelation 12:6, 13-17, referring to the persecuted woman as '**saints**' (Revelation 13:7) and to the dragon as a **sea beast** with seven heads and ten horns who received its marching orders **from the dragon** who also had seven heads and ten horns (Revelation 13:1, 2).

Revelation 13:7 then explains that after the sea beast received its marching orders from the dragon, it persecuted the saints for **42 months**. This is the identical time period that the dragon persecuted the woman in Revelation 12 (Revelation 12:6, 14, 15). We can therefore be certain that the dragon of Revelation 12 and the sea beast that received its '*power, throne and authority*' from the dragon of Revelation 13:1, 2 represent the same power and the persecuting waters of chapter 12 are equivalent to the persecution of the saints in chapter 13.

Revelation 13:3, 9, 10 explains that after persecuting the saints for 42 months, the sea beast received a deadly wound on **only one** of its heads (Revelation 13:3), undoubtedly the same head that had spewed out waters in Revelation 12:15. Thus, the deadly wound suspended the sea beast's persecution of the saints for a season in chapter 13 as the earth had suspended the dragon's persecution of the woman in chapter 12.

We cannot overemphasize that **only one** of the seven heads of the sea beast received a deadly wound at the conclusion of the 42 months (Revelation 13:3). Likewise, **only one head** ceased to spew waters out of its mouth—singular—in chapter 12 (Revelation 12:14, 15). Clearly, when the wound heals, not all the heads will heal, but only the one that was wounded.

We are told in chapter 13 that the sword gave the papacy its deadly wound. The question is, what is the sword that wounded the beast? According to **Romans 13:4**, the sword is in the hand of the **civil authorities** and they use this **figurative sword** to impose **fines**, confiscate **property**, **incarcerate**, and in some cases, to execute the **death penalty**. The papacy was wounded by the sword in the sense that the punitive power of the state was removed from her hand and turned against her.

The prophecy of Revelation 13 explains that after a period of convalescence, the deadly wound of the sea beast will be **healed** (Revelation 13:3). So to speak, the waters of the symbolic Euphrates will **flow again** when the civil rulers and their subjects restore the sword to the beast (Revelation 13:3, 11-18). Expressed in the terms of Revelation 17, the civil rulers with their citizens (Revelation 17:1, 2, 15) will lend their support to the harlot once more and the waters of persecution will flow again. Ellen White warned:

*“Let the restraints now imposed by **secular governments** be removed and Rome be reinstated in her former power, and there would speedily be **a revival** of her tyranny and persecution.” GC, p. 564*

Putting the symbols together, the head of the dragon is the papal civil kingdom, the harlot symbolizes the apostate religious side of the papacy, the body of the dragon beast are the multitudes that support her, and the ten horns on the head are the civil rulers that are allied to the harlot’s kingdom.

Some have wondered whether the beast was actually killed or only mortally wounded. The expression “*as it were wounded to death*” (13:3) is identical to the description of Jesus as a Lamb “*as it had been slain*” (5:5). No one would sustain that Jesus was not killed! The fact is that Revelation 13:10 clearly states that when the head was wounded, the result was that the beast **was killed** (13:10). It is crucially important to remember that when the **head is wounded**, the beast does not persecute. However, when the **head is healed**, persecution resumes (cf. Revelation 13:12, 14).

The Final Drying up

When the sea beast’s deadly wound is healed, the Babylonian harlot will once again influence the political rulers and through them, the persecuting waters of the symbolic Euphrates to **flood/persecute** God’s people (Revelation 13:3). This period, when the spiritual Euphrates will be at flood stage, is described in Revelation 17:1, 2. Chapter 17 will provide the fullest expansion of Revelation 12:17. It will describe the time when Babylon’s symbolic Euphrates will flow once more because the rulers of the world and their citizens have restored the sword to the harlot and delivered her from her captivity.

The scenario in Revelation 17 will be similar to the one in Revelation 12 and 13, albeit with different symbols. After the earth helped the woman by drying up the persecuting waters and the sea beast was wounded, the dragon is filled with rage against the last remnant of the woman’s SEED and will launch a deadly flood of persecution against them (Revelation 12:17). However, when it appears that the faithful will be wiped off the face of the earth, God will dry up the persecuting waters and deliver His people (cf. Daniel 12:1).

Revelation 16:12 describes the moment when God will dry up the raging waters of the symbolic Euphrates once more as He did at the end of the 1260 years. The seventh and final head will receive a definitive and final death blow. Thus, Revelation 17 expands upon the final flowing of the river and its drying up.

Revelation 17 describes how the bloodthirsty river will dry up. We have seen that when the rulers and their subjects give their support to the harlot, the river flows. However, when they withdraw their support the persecuting river dries up. Revelation 17:16, 17 describes both the flowing river and its drying up:

Revelation 17:16, 17:

"These [the civil rulers] are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ These will make war with the Lamb [in the person of His witnesses—7T, p. 182], and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings [Revelation 19:16]; and those who are with Him [the remnant of her SEED] are called, chosen, and faithful. ¹⁵ Then he said to me, "The [flowing] waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. ¹⁶ And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. ¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts [of the ten horns] to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind [on the same page while the river flows], and to give their kingdom to the beast [the nations multitudes, tongues and people], until the words of God are fulfilled [at the seventh plague: 'it is done', Revelation 16:17]. ¹⁸ And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

Once again, the sword of civil power that the harlot used to kill God's people will turn against her, repeating, in similar fashion globally, what took place locally during the French Revolution.

Our analysis of chapter 17 would not be complete without recourse to the expansion of Revelation 16 and 17 provided by the Spirit of Prophecy. When probation closes, Satan will have full control over the finally impenitent. The papacy, in conjunction with her Protestant daughters, the civil rulers of the world and the multitudes will unite as an overwhelming flood intending to blot out the faithful remnant:

*"He [Satan] numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could **blot them from the earth**, his triumph would be complete." GC, p. 618*

Ellen White described the final rushing of the waters and their drying up:

*"When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a **simultaneous movement for their destruction**. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, **the people will conspire** to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a **decisive blow**, which shall **utterly silence** the voice of dissent and reproof.*

*The **people of God** [those who are with the Lamb]—some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains—still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter **companies of armed men**, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of **utmost extremity**, that the God of Israel will interpose for the **deliverance of His chosen**. . . With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to **rush** [the swirling waters of the Euphrates] upon their prey, when, lo, a **dense blackness**, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth [the fifth plague]. Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens and seems to encircle each praying company. The **angry multitudes** [the swirling waters of the Euphrates] are suddenly **arrested** [the sixth plague, the drying up of the Euphrates]. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their **murderous rage** are forgotten. With fearful forebodings they gaze upon the symbol of God's covenant and long to be shielded from its overpowering brightness.*

*It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the **deliverance of His people**. . . [Daniel 12:1] In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: "It is done." [the finishing of God's word at the seventh plague] Revelation 16:17." GC, pp. 635, 636*

The Perspective of Daniel 11:40-45

Although Daniel 11:40-45 falls **outside** the immediate scope of our present study, a few remarks would be helpful. Daniel 11:40-45 is closely related to the

present study but space will allow me only to present that relationship in broad strokes. For those who are interested, my study presented at the Daniel 11 Symposium in Michigan is included at the end of this study.

Daniel 11:30-11:45 has four stages:

- ✓ Daniel 11:31-39 describes the king of the north **persecuting** those who know their God and those of understanding (11:32-35) for [1260] 'days'. During this period many of the faithful fell '*by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering.*' (11:33).
- ✓ When the '*many days*' were **about** to finish (Revelation 11:7: the word 'finish' means '**about** to finish'—cf. John 17:4; 2 Timothy 4:7) at the beginning of the 'time of the end' (1798), the king of the south (France) attacked the king of the north and **wounded** him (11:40). The KJV translates 'shall push at him' which does not capture the intensity of the Hebrew word. Various versions render, 'engage him in battle (NIV), 'attack him' (NKJV), 'collide with him' (NASB), and 'fight a battle' (NCV). The word is used to describe the ram goring its enemies with its horns (Daniel 8:4).
- ✓ The king of the north then **recovers** from its wound and rises like a mighty **storm** to **flood** and **overflow** (the word '**overflow**' refers to an inundating river flooding over its banks (11:40-44; cf. Isaiah 8:8; 47:2) bringing about a time of trouble and jeopardizing the very existence of the remnant of Jesus.
- ✓ However, at the height of the king of the north's flood, when it appears that the remnant will be swallowed up by the raging waters, Michael will stand up to deliver His people and the king of the north will come **to his end** with **none to help** him (11:45-12:1) In other words, the daughters, the political rulers and the waters who helped the king of the north during his heyday will dry up and turn against him!

It does not take much of an imagination to discern the link between Daniel 11 and Revelation 12, 13 and 17. Here is what the **composite picture** looks like:

Stage #1: The persecuting waters flowed for 42 months/1260 days/'time, times and the dividing of time':

- ✓ **Revelation 12:6, 13-15:** A seven-headed, ten-horned dragon spewed flood water out of one mouth for 1260 days or 'time, times and the dividing of time' intending to drown the woman.
- ✓ **Revelation 13:5, 7:** A seven-headed, ten-horned beast from the sea persecuted the saints and ruled with an iron fist for 42 months.
- ✓ **Daniel 11:33-39:** Daniel 11:31-39 describes the king of the north persecuting those who know their God and those of understanding (11:32-35) for [1260] 'days'.

Stage #2: The persecuting waters dried up at the end of the 42 months/1260 days/'time, times and the dividing of time':

- ✓ **Revelation 12:16:** Toward the end of the 1260 years, the dragon's persecuting flood waters were dried up by the earth (Revelation 12:16). The Pilgrims and others fled from the Old World to the territory of the New to escape the persecuting waters. Persecution ceased shortly before the end of the 1260 years (GC 266,267).
- ✓ **Revelation 13:3:** At the end of the 42 months, the French Revolution in 1798 gave the seven-headed and ten-horned sea beast a deadly wound and persecution has ceased since then (Revelation 13:3).
- ✓ **Daniel 11:40:** When the 'many days' of Daniel 11:33 were about to finish at the beginning of the 'time of the end' (1798), the king of the south (France) attacked the king of the north and wounded him (11:40) and has been unable to persecute once more.

Stage #3:

- ✓ **Revelation 12:17:** After a period of respite from persecution, the same seven-headed and ten horned dragon that persecuted the woman will be filled with rage against the remnant of the woman's SEED and a second and future period of persecution will ensue without any length of time specified.

- ✓ **Revelation 13:3, 11-18:** For a period, the sea beast will be out of commission with a deadly wound. However, the wound will be healed and all the world will wonder after it. A deputy beast will rise from the earth and continue the persecuting work of the seven-headed and ten-horned dragon.
- ✓ **Revelation 17:1, 2, 6, 15:** The harlot will once more sit on a seven-headed, ten-horned **dragon** beast—the waters of the Euphrates—for an unspecified time period and during that period she will stain her hands with the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus (17:6).
- ✓ **Daniel 11:40-44:** The king of the north **recovers** from its wound and rises like a mighty **storm** to **flood** and **overflow** (the word '**overflow**' refers to an inundating river flooding over its banks (11:40-44; cf. Isaiah 8:8; 47:2)

Stage #4: The persecuting floodwaters will dry up:

- ✓ **Revelation 16:12:** Finally, when the **symbolic Euphrates**—composed of nations, tongues, multitudes and people—is at **flood stage**, God will **dry it up its waters** and deliver his people from annihilation (Revelation 16:12-16; 17:1, 2, 15-17 cf. Daniel 12:1).
- ✓ **Daniel 11:45-12:1:** At the height of the king of the north's flood, when it appears that the remnant will be swallowed up by the raging waters, Michael will stand up to deliver His people and the king of the north will come **to his end** with **none to help** him (11:45-12:1)

Four Beasts in Different Places

The four beasts of Revelation 12, 13:1-10, 13:11-18 and Revelation 17 arise in **different places**:

- ✓ When the seven headed dragon attempted to slay the man child, a sign was seen in **heaven** (Revelation 12:1) because it was a battle that began there between Christ and His armies and Satan and his.
- ✓ The seven headed beast of Revelation 13:1 arose from the **sea** because it ruled in the heavily **populated** area of Western Europe.

- ✓ The seven-headed scarlet beast of Revelation 17:8 will arise from the **abyss** because the abyss is the realm of the dead from where the sea beast is resurrecting from its deadly wound. Thus, the apostle Paul wrote that Jesus resurrected from the abyss:

*“Or, who shall descend into the **deep [abyss]**? (that is, to bring up Christ again **from the dead**.)” (Romans 10:7)*

According to **Revelation 20:1**, Satan will be **cast into the abyss** and restrained when he receives his ‘deadly wound’ at the second coming. Up to this point he had been free to carry on his work. However, during the millennium he will not be able to use the civil rulers to accomplish his purposes because they will all be dead. However, at the end of the millennium, his power base will resurrect from the abyss and he will be able once more to use them to accomplish his purposes (Revelation 20:5, 7-9).

- ✓ But there is a **fourth beast** that rises from the earth because it originates in a sparsely populated area in contrast to the other beasts that rose in the populated world of antiquity. This beast, after a period of respite, becomes head #6 in the series.

Are the Seven Heads Seven Popes?

Revelation 17:10 tells us that the seven heads represent seven **kings** (17:10). However, the word ‘kings’ in Bible prophecy is interchangeable with ‘kingdoms’ (cf. Revelation 17:10; Daniel 7:17, 23; 2:37-39). Thus, the seven heads represent **seven successive civil kingdoms** that have ruled since Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon and have been persuaded by the harlot to impose her agenda.

When John Paul II was pope some scholars, even notable ones, believed that the seven heads represent seven **successive popes** who had ruled **since 1929**. They chose that date on the assumption that the papacy’s deadly wound was healed in that year. In 2005, some interpreted the five heads that had fallen since 1929 as:

- ✓ Pius XI (1922-1939)
- ✓ Pius XII (1939-1958)
- ✓ John XXIII (1958-1963)
- ✓ Paul VI (1963-1978)
- ✓ John Paul I (1978)

According to this scenario, the **head who 'is'** (or sixth head) was John Paul II (1978-2005) and the one **who 'is to come'**, the seventh who would rule a short time was Benedict XVI who was pope from 2005-2013.

However, Benedict resigned from the papal chair on February 28, 2013, so the present pope, **Francis I**, would supposedly be #8 in the series of popes since 1929. So the speculation goes that Pope Francis I will be the last pope because Revelation 17:11 refers to an eighth and Pope Francis I is the eighth in the series of popes since 1929!

In summary, this is what the list of popes would look like according to this scenario:

- ✓ #1: Pius XI (1922-1939)
- ✓ #2: Pius XII (1939-1958)
- ✓ #3: John XXIII (1958-1963)
- ✓ #4: Paul VI (1963-1978)
- ✓ #5: John Paul I (1978)
- ✓ #6: John Paul II (1978-2005)
- ✓ #7: Benedict XVI (2005-2013)
- ✓ #8: Francis I (2013-?)

Clearly, this view can be discarded because Pope Francis I, is **not one of the seven** as the prophecy of Revelation 17:11 requires. Furthermore, the heads represent successive civil kingdoms and **not individual popes** within those kingdoms.

Before the election of Francis, evangelicals and even some Adventists sensationalized a prophecy by **St. Malachy** to the effect that the next pope would be the last, that **he would be black** (a euphemism for the head of the Jesuit Order who is called the 'black pope') and his name would be **Petrus Romanus**. Pope Francis I is a Jesuit but his name is not Petrus Romanus. All of this speculation simply detracts from the power of this prophecy.

The fact is that this prophecy has nothing to do with **individual popes**. The seven heads are not seven individuals but rather seven kingdoms. All this speculation about the seven heads being seven popes should be discarded for the following reasons:

First, the dragon beast of Revelation 17 does not have eight heads, it has only seven. The eighth is actually described as one of the seven.

Second, such a view comes pretty close to setting specific dates for the final prophetic movements. In this scenario, the successor of Pope Benedict XVI would be the last pope. Is this not setting a definite time frame for end-time events?

Third, these speculative views sever Revelation 17 from the previous prophetic lines of Daniel 7 and Revelation 12 and 13. As we have seen above, Revelation 12, 13, and 17 are indissolubly linked! Ellen White understood the common thread between Revelation 12, 13 and 17:

"God has warned His people of the perils before them. John beholds the things which will be in the last days and he sees a people working counter to God."

Then she wrote:

"Read Revelation 12:17; 14:10-13, and chapters 17 and 13." Manuscript Releases, volume 17, p. 18

Fourth, the seven heads of this dragon beast are said to be seven mountains (cf. Daniel 2:39; 7:17, 23). In prophecy, 'mountains' represent kingdoms not individual rulers. The popes on the list above are actually not rulers of seven distinct kingdoms but rather leaders of the **same kingdom**.

Finally, there is little evidence that 1929 (other than the article from the *San Francisco Chronicle*) should be chosen as the beginning date for the sequence of

seven heads. Revelation 13:11-18 explicitly explains that the deadly wound would be healed by the United States in the future, not by Italy in the past. The healing of the wound is the restoration of the sword of civil power to the papacy by the United States and the persecution that will ensue.

The First Two Heads: Egypt and Assyria?

Some have assumed that **Egypt and Assyria** must be the first two heads of the dragon. They also assume that the beast has eight heads because the prophecy speaks of an 'eighth'. However, the chapter consistently refers to seven heads, not eight (verses 3, 7, 9, 10). Those who hold this view, give the following order of kingdoms:

- ✓ Head #1: Egypt
- ✓ Head #2: Assyria
- ✓ Head #3: Babylon
- ✓ Head #4: Medes and Persians
- ✓ Head #5: Greece
- ✓ Head #6: Roman Empire
- ✓ Head #7: Papal Rome during the 1260 years
- ✓ Head #8: Papal Rome healed from its deadly wound (the eighth kingdom)

The problem is that Egypt and Assyria are not found in any of the chain prophecies of Daniel 2, 7 or Revelation 12, 13 and 17. It is true that Egypt does appear symbolically in Revelation 11 (representing France) but France is not a universal kingdom and does not persecute God's people but rather wounded the head of the power that persecuted them.

Daniel 2, Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 begin with **Babylon** as the **first kingdom**, Daniel 8 begins with the Medes and Persians and Daniel 11 begins with **Persia**. Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon is known as the **neo-Babylonian Empire** because it was intended to be a continuation of the Babylon that originated at the tower of Babel. All false religions have their origin at the **fountainhead** of Babel and its tower because from there, humans spread out all over the earth.

The Meaning of the Seven Heads

Now we must turn our attention to the most likely meaning of the seven-headed, ten-horned **beasts** in Revelation 12, 13, and 17. **John N. Andrews**, who in my estimation, was the ablest scholar in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, explained the meaning of these three beasts:

*"The seven heads are **seven forms of civil power** which **successively** bear rule. These seven heads belong alike to the **dragon** of Revelation 12, the **beast** of chapter 13, and **that of** Revelation 17. This shows **conclusively** that the dragon and these two beasts are symbols of the **same power under different heads**; for there are not three sets of seven heads, but it is evident that the heads are **successive forms** of its power, **one of them bearing rule at a time**, and then giving place to another (Revelation 17:9, 10). The proper period of each seems to be this: The dragon **before** the 1260 years, the beast of chapter 13 **during** that period, and the beast of chapter 17 **since** the deadly wound and captivity at the close of that period." (J. N. Andrews, *The Three Messages of Revelation XIV*, 6-12, pp. 77, 78.*

The **seven heads** of the dragon beast are used interchangeably with **seven mountains** (Revelation 17:9). In Bible prophecy mountains symbolize **kingdoms**, not individual kings (Daniel 2:34, 35, 44; Jeremiah 51:25; Micah 4:1; Revelation 17:9 in the light of Daniel 2:38, 39; 7:17, 23). This being the case, the seven heads/mountains must represent **seven successive kingdoms** that have ruled upon the earth and have been controlled by apostate religion, beginning with Babylon and ending with spiritual Babylon, the papacy.

To the best of our **present knowledge**, the seven heads represent the following successive civil kingdoms allied with apostate religion to persecute God's people. Revelation 13:1, 2 gives us a clue about the identity of the first five heads and Egypt and Assyria are not among them:

*"Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having **seven heads** and **ten horns**, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.² Now the beast which I saw was like a [1] **leopard**, his feet were like the feet of a [2] **bear**, and his mouth like the mouth of a [3] **lion**. The [4] **dragon** [5] gave him [the sea beast] his power, his throne, and great authority."*

These verses clearly identify the first five heads on the dragon beast:

- ✓ **Head #1: The lion:** The civil kingdom of Babylon.
- ✓ **Head #2: The bear:** The civil kingdom of the Medes and Persians.
- ✓ **Head #3: The leopard:** The civil kingdom of Greece.
- ✓ **Head #4:** The seven-headed and ten-horned **dragon:** The civil kingdom of Rome and its ten horns/divisions.
- ✓ **Head #5: The sea beast:** The rule of the seven-headed and ten-horned sea beast allied with religion for 42 months.

During this period, the **divided Roman Empire** (the ten horns/divisions on the fifth head) did the bidding of the sea beast. According to Revelation 13:1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and Daniel 7:23, 24, the civil kingdom of Rome with its ten horns **gave** the **sea beast** 'his power, his throne, and great authority'. The sea beast then ruled and persecuted the saints for 42 months. The first five heads are the 'was' period of the beast of Revelation 17.

Between the fifth and sixth heads, there has been a moratorium on persecution for over 200 years.

Toward the end of the rule of the fifth head, the earth helped the woman (Revelation 12:16) and the French Revolution gave the sea beast a deadly wound (Revelation 13:3). As a result, the persecuting waters of the 42 months dried up and persecution ceased. This began the period when the seven-headed beast '**is not**' because the fifth head had a wound and the beast from the earth with its principles of civil and religious liberty was helping the woman.

- ✓ **Head #6:** The nation of the United States, pressured by the **apostate Protestant churches**:

After defending civil and religious liberties for two and a half centuries, the United States morphs into an oppressive and persecuting kingdom. It will forsake the principles of the Lamb that it was built upon and speak like the seven-headed, ten-horned dragon of Revelation 12:17.

The papacy and apostate Protestantism in the United States are **two separate kingdoms** because two separate beasts represent them. According to the Spirit of Prophecy, eventually, the United States will give its kingdom (#6) to the papacy (#7), and the papacy will dictate its actions.

When the United States makes an image of the sea beast and enforces its mark, it will have given its kingdom to the papacy and the persecuting waters of the spiritual Euphrates will flow once more. The papacy will then become head #7 and it counts as an eighth because 8 is the number of the resurrection. This is the '**will be**' period of the dragon beast.

*"What is it that **gives its kingdom [the United States] to this power [to the papacy]**? Protestantism, a power which while professing to have the temper and spirit of a lamb and to be allied to Heaven, speaks with the voice of a dragon. It is moved by a power from beneath." (Letter 232, 1899) Ellen G. White, **The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary**, volume 7, p. 983.*

- ✓ **Head #7:** The civil powers of **all** worlds (as indicated by the ten horns in Revelation 17) under the control of the harlot who in turn controls her daughters and the waters/multitudes, will persecute God's people as she did in the past. This is the '**will be**' period of the beast. At this point, the persecuting waters will flow once more. Ellen White wrote that the last kingdom/head will be the papacy and under that **one head**, the papacy's persecuting waters will flow once more (Revelation 17:1, 2).

*"As we approach the **last** crisis it is of vital moment that harmony and **unity** exist among the Lord's instrumentalities. 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 [the remnant of her SEED]**. This **union** is cemented by the great apostate." **ZT** p. 182 (1902)*

It will be observed that in this scenario, three of the last four heads are Roman (heads #4, #5 and #7) and even head #6—the United States—will become instrumental in restoring the power to papal Rome by making an image of it and enforcing its mark. The United States will speak **like the dragon** of Revelation 12:17 and 13:11.

Of course, we wonder why we need four of the seven heads to represent the various stages of Rome. Isn't one head enough?

The answer to this question is quite simple. The books of Daniel and Revelation themselves take up the **stages of Rome separately**. In Daniel 2 the legs of iron are distinguished from the feet of iron and clay. Daniel 7:23, 24 marks a clear distinction between the dragon ruling with ten horns (head #4) and the dragon with the little horn (head #5). Revelation 13 adds that the little horn/beast will have another stage after its deadly wound is healed (head #7). And kingdom #6 (the United States) will be instrumental in giving head #5 its power back.

Even further, Revelation 12 portrays the seven-headed dragon in **heaven** with ten horns symbolizing **Pagan Rome**, a separate seven-headed beast from the sea in Revelation 13 with ten horns representing Papal Rome during the 1260 years and Revelation 17 employs yet a third seven-headed beast from the abyss with ten horns to represent the papacy when its deadly wound is healed. Notably, even the United States is represented by a separate beast. Clearly, we are dealing with separate kingdoms.

If three beasts which arise in three **different places** are used to represent the different stages of Rome, then it should not surprise us that **separate heads** are used to depict those same stages. It is important to underline that the **sixth head** (the United States under apostate Protestantism) is symbolized by a **separate beast** and is related to Rome because it speaks like a dragon and the dragon represents Satan working through pagan and papal Rome.

Ellen White clearly identifies three persecuting powers in their proper **historical sequence**. She underlines that when the heads persecute God's people, they are alive:

*"Under the symbols of the **great red dragon**, a **leopard-like beast**, and a **beast with lamblike horns**, the **earthly governments** which would be especially engaged in trampling upon God's law and **persecuting His people** were presented to John. Their war is to be carried on till the close of time. The **people of God**, symbolized by a **holy woman and her children** [Revelation 12:6, 17], are represented as greatly in the minority. In the last days, **only a remnant** [**the remnant of her SEED**] still exists. John speaks of them as those that 'keep the*

commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.' Signs of the Times, February 8, 1910

Ellen White linked the United States with papal Rome:

*"When the land which the Lord provided as an asylum for his people, that they might worship him according to the dictates of their own consciences, the land over which for long years the shield of Omnipotence has been spread, the land which God has favored by making it the depository of the pure religion of Christ—when that land shall, through its legislators, **abjure [solemnly renounce]** the principles of Protestantism, and give countenance to **Romish apostasy** in tampering with God's law—it is then that the final work of the man of sin will be revealed. Protestants will throw their whole influence and strength on the **side of the Papacy**; by a **national act [national Sunday law]** enforcing the false Sabbath, they will give **life and vigor to the corrupt faith of Rome**, reviving **her** tyranny and oppression of conscience. Then it will be time for God to work in mighty power for the vindication of his truth."* Signs of the Times, June 12, 1893.

Some have wondered about an eighth head of the dragon beast. The simple fact is that the dragon beast does **not have** eight heads, it has only seven. However, the seventh head counts as an eighth; that is to say, head number 7 bears the number 8.

Time and again Revelation 17 (as well as the beasts of Daniel 7 and Revelation 12 and 13) tells us that there are **only seven heads** on the dragon beast (17:3, 7, 9, 10). Louis Were has shown in his book, The Woman and the Beast in Revelation, that the number eight is symbolic of new life or the **resurrection**. In other words, head #7 bears the number 8 because it has resurrected from the deadly wound.

The Dragon Beast's Three Final Stages

The beast from the abyss has three consecutive historical stages, one past, one present and the other future:

- ✓ The beast "**was** [past] and **is not** [present] and shall **be** [future]" (17:8)

- ✓ The beast "**was** and **is not** and **yet is** [better translation: 'shall be present'] (17:8).

- ✓ These same time periods are described as “five are fallen [past], one **is** [present] and the other is not yet come [future]” (17:10)
- ✓ The time periods are also explained as the beast who “was [past], and **is not** [present], even he is the eighth [future]” (17:11).

The beast ‘was’ during the 1260 years of Papal rule. The beast ‘**is not**’ because it presently has a deadly wound. It ‘shall be’ because the deadly wound will be healed and the harlot’s waters will flow once more and the whole world will wonder after the sea beast (Revelation 13:3, 4).

Ranko Stefanovic wrote that the ‘**is not**’ period is when the papacy is convalescing with the deadly wound:

*“The events of the **French Revolution** (including the demise of the papacy under Napoleon) that impacted politics and religious liberty are probably the most apparent manifestation of the ‘mortal wound.’ But for all practical purposes, it was this long process of political, social, and religious transformation that caused the ‘mortal wound’ and brought the sea beast to the ‘**is not**’ period (cf. Rev. 17:11).”* Ranko Stefanovic, Revelation of Jesus Christ, pp. 412, 413

The seven heads of the beasts of Revelation 12, 13 and 17 do not rule **simultaneously** but **consecutively**. In other words, the heads are wounded **one by one** as each civil power passes from the scene. We know this for at least two reasons:

First, Revelation 12:15 explains that **only one mouth** was spewing out persecuting waters. Furthermore, Revelation 13:3, 5, 6 tells us that only **one head** of the seven-headed beast (the same one that was spewing out waters in Revelation 12) received the deadly wound and only one head is healed.

Second, an archeological dig helps us understand the ancient view. A cylinder seal was discovered in Tell Amar in ancient Mesopotamia. On the seal were **two deities**, one before it and the other behind. Four of the seven heads, have been pierced by a spear, are **drooping** and are no longer in conflict. But the other three heads are still **erect**, maintaining the struggle.

The Wings

Although Revelation 17 does not use the symbolism of river **wings**, it would be well to bring to view this ancient concept. **Isaiah 8:7, 8** compares the invasion of King Sennacherib into the land of Judah with a flooding of the mighty river Euphrates. The river at **overflowing its borders** looks like a dragon extending its wings:

*“Now therefore, behold, the Lord brings up over them the waters of **the River**, strong and mighty—the **king of Assyria** and all his glory; he will go up over all his channels and go over all his banks. ⁸ He will pass through Judah, he will **overflow and pass over**, he will reach up to the neck; and the stretching out of **his wings** will fill the breadth of Your land, O Immanuel.” (Isaiah 8:7-8)*

The Ten Horns

The **ten horns** are found on the head of the dragon beast of Revelation 12, the sea beast of Revelation 13, and the scarlet beast of Revelation 17. Whereas the seven heads rule **consecutively**, the ten horns **rule contemporaneously**. This is made clear by the fact that all ten horns will rule (when they receive the kingdom) simultaneously on the **seventh head** when the beast resurfaces from its death wound (Revelation 17:12).

The ten horns symbolize ten **kings** (17:12) and the ten kings represent ‘the **kings** of the earth and the whole **world**’ (16:14; cf. 17:18). During the 1260 days/years, the ten toes and the ten horns of Daniel 2 and 7 represented the nations of Western Europe but at the end, because the rule of the harlot will be global, the ten toes and ten horns represent the kings of the earth and the **whole world** (cf. Revelation 16:14).

The Number Ten

Are we to understand that there will be **only ten nations** in the world that will be of one mind with the beast against God’s people? Not at all. We are reminded that according to Revelation 16:13,14, the three evil spirits gather the ‘kings of the earth and the whole world’ to the final battle. The number ten is symbolic of **all**. Ellen White made clear that every nation on earth will be involved in the final conflict:

"The so-called **Christian world** is to be the theater of great and decisive actions. **Men in authority** will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the **example of the papacy**. **Babylon** will make **all nations** drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. **Every nation** will be involved." *LDE*, pp. 136,137

The **whole world** is to be stirred with enmity against Seventh-day Adventists because they will not yield homage to the papacy by honoring Sunday, the institution of this antichristian power." *TM*, p. 37

"**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 world**." *CW*, p. 69

There are several texts that seem to indicate that the number ten is a summary number for **all** or **many**. Here are some biblical examples:

Ten camels symbolize **all** of Abraham's goods (Genesis 24:10), **Ten servants** are symbolic of **all** of Christ's professed followers (Luke 19:13). When **Hannah** could not bear children, her husband asked her if he was not better than ten sons, meaning '**many**' (1 Samuel 1:8). Ten **rulers** of the city represent **all** of them (Ecclesiastes 7:19). The vegan young men were **ten times better** than all the other students in the school of Babylon (Daniel 1:20) and **ten virgins** represent **all** of God's professed people (Matthew 25:1). When we return **10%** of our income to God we are tithing **all** of our income (Leviticus 27:30). The **Ten Commandments** contain **all** the duty of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13) and God added no more to them (Deuteronomy 5:22). And **all** the law and prophets are summarized in the ten (Matthew 22:40).

All on the Same Page

Revelation 17 tells us that the kings of the earth and the whole world will be of **one mind**, that is, on the same page, until the words of God are finished and God's last word is 'it is done' at the time of the seventh plague when God delivers His faithful people (16:17; 17:17; *GC*, pp. 635, 636).

When the words of God are fulfilled, Babylon united will become Babylon divided. Events similar to those at the tower of Babel will occur but on a **global scale**. Regarding the confusion at Babel, Ellen White wrote:

"Confusion and dismay followed. All work came to a standstill. There could be no further harmony or co-operation. The builders were wholly unable to account for the strange misunderstandings among them, and in their rage and disappointment they reproached one another. Their confederacy ended in strife and bloodshed. Lightnings from heaven, as an evidence of God's displeasure, broke off the upper portion of the tower and cast it to the ground. Men were made to feel that there is a God who ruleth in the heavens." PP, p. 119

The ten kings, under the leadership of apostate Protestantism and the papacy, will influence the multitudes in their nations to enact and enforce a Sunday law. When this happens, the kings will all be on the same page.

Ellen White linked the arrogance of the Babel builders with the final Babylon:

"There are tower builders in our time. Infidels construct their theories from the supposed deductions of sciences, and reject the revealed word of God. They presume to pass sentence upon God's moral government; they despise His law and boast of the sufficiency of human reason. Then, 'because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.' Ecclesiastes 8:11.

In the professedly Christian world many turn away from the plain teachings of the Bible and build up a creed from human speculations and pleasing fables, and they point to their tower as a way to climb up to heaven. Men hang with admiration upon the lips of eloquence while it teaches that the transgressor shall not die, that salvation may be secured without obedience to the law of God. If the professed followers of Christ would accept God's standard, it would bring them into unity; but so long as human wisdom is exalted above His Holy Word, there will be divisions and dissension. The existing confusion of conflicting creeds and sects is fitly represented by the term 'Babylon,' which prophecy (Revelation 14:8; 18:2) applies to the world-loving churches of the last days." PP, pp. 123, 124

Revelation 17 tells us that for a short period, the kings will give their power, authority and kingdom to the beast (17:12, 13).

"The so-called Christian world is to be the theater of great and decisive actions. Men in authority will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the example of

the papacy. Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Every nation will be involved. Of this time John the Revelator declares: [Rev. 18:3-7; 17:13, 14, quoted]. "These have one mind." There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces. "And shall give their power and strength unto the beast." [Ellen White cites Revelation 17:12, 13] Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty—freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience—as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism." 3SM, p. 392

The ten kings will be 'kings with the beast for one hour' (17:12) and they will make war with the lamb (19:11, 19; 16:14; 17:14) in the person of His witnesses:

"As we approach the last crisis, it is of vital moment that harmony and unity exist among the Lord's instrumentalities. The world is filled with storm and war and variance. Yet under one head—the papal power—the people [under the leadership of their political leaders] will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses. This union is cemented by the great apostate." 7T, p. 183

The war will not be directly against God but rather against God in the person of His people. Those who touch His people touch the apple of His eye (Zechariah 2:8). In Matthew 25 Jesus said to His faithful followers: "*In that you have done it unto one of these the least my brothers you have done it unto me.*" And when Jesus spoke to Saul of Tarsus He said: "*Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?*"

The glorious climax of this prophecy tells us that Jesus will overcome the kings of the earth and the whole world because He is the King of kings and Lord of lords (17:14; 19:19-20) and those who are allied with Jesus are called, chosen and faithful (17:14).

The Kings Hate the Harlot

The kings of the earth and the whole world and their subjects will not always carry on a love affair with the harlot who controls them. At the voice of God, they will realize, too late, that the harlot and her daughters have deceived them.

Then, the kings and their citizens will **hate** the harlot and turn against her (17:15-16). The political leaders will encourage the multitudes to turn against the harlot and her daughters. The **kings** will hate her and the **waters** will dry up on her. A scene similar to the French Revolution will be witnessed but on a global scale.

Ellen White described the time when the waters of the great River **Euphrates** will dry up (16:12):

*"With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey, when, lo, a **dense blackness [the fifth plague]**, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth. Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens and seems to encircle each praying company [God's people in light]. The **angry multitudes** are **suddenly arrested [the sixth plague]**. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their **murderous rage are forgotten**. With fearful forebodings they gaze upon the symbol of God's covenant and long to be shielded from its overpowering brightness." GC pp. 635, 636*

*"The **people** see that they have been deluded. They accuse one another of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon **the ministers**. **Unfaithful pastors** have prophesied **smooth things**; they have led their hearers to make **void the law of God** and **to persecute** those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these **teachers confess** before the world their work of deception. The **multitudes are filled with fury**. "We are lost!" they cry, "and you are the cause of our ruin;" and they **turn upon the false shepherds [the waters now avalanche themselves against the religious leaders]**. The very ones that once admired them most will pronounce the most dreadful **curses upon them**. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be **raised for their destruction**. The swords which were to slay God's people are now employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is strife and bloodshed. GC, p. 656.*

The Final Drying up of the Waters

The seven headed dragon of Revelation 17 reminds us of a dragon like creature called Leviathan. There are **three key passages** in the Old Testament that describe this seven-headed monster: Psalm 74:10-14; Job 41 and Isaiah 27:1.

The New Testament also alludes to this persecuting sea creature (Revelation 12:3, 4, 7-9). As we examine these texts we discover the following interesting details:

- ✓ Leviathan is a **sea creature** with **multiple heads** and he rules over the waters.
- ✓ Leviathan is also called the fleeting **serpent** and the **great dragon**. In fact, the Hebrew word 'Leviathan' means 'twisted, coiled.'
- ✓ Leviathan is a **deadly enemy** of God and His people as we can see in the book of Job.
- ✓ Leviathan is the king of the **children of pride**.
- ✓ Ultimately God will pull out Leviathan from its natural habitat, **cast him onto dry land**, and crush its heads.

Though the book of Revelation does not use the name 'Leviathan' it is clear that the dragon beast of Revelation 12 and the scarlet beast of Revelation 17 are Leviathan. All the details about Leviathan in the Old Testament coalesce in the portrait painted in Revelation. The dragon of Revelation 12 is defined as the dragon, the ancient serpent, and Satan. The name 'Satan' appears in Job as the persecutor of Job and Isaiah 27:1 refers to Leviathan as the dragon and the fleeting serpent.

After the millennium the kings of the earth will resurrect from their death wound and will persuade the waters/multitudes to attack God and His people in the city (Revelation 20:5, 7-9). At this point Satan in person rides the beast, not the apostate religious systems. Satan will entice the kings and the multitudes to surround the New Jerusalem and they will be like the river Euphrates at flood stage (this is the imagery behind **Psalm 46**). As the political and military leaders are ready to drown the city, God reveals to the multitudes that Satan is the great deceiver and the kings and the multitudes will turn against him. Before this they were all of one mind but now Babylon falls apart. As the kings turned against the harlot and her daughters before the millennium, the kings and multitudes will turn against Satan at the end. Notice how Ellen White describes this final drying up of the waters after the millennium:

*"He [Satan] **rushes** into the midst of his subjects and endeavors to inspire them with **his own fury** and arouse them to **instant battle**. But of all the countless*

*millions whom he has allured into rebellion, there are none now to acknowledge his supremacy. **His power is at an end.** The wicked are filled with the same hatred of God that inspires Satan; but they see that their case is hopeless, that they cannot prevail against Jehovah. Their **rage is kindled against Satan** and those who have been his agents in deception, and with the **fury of demons they turn upon them.**" *GC*, p. 671.*

This portrayal by Ellen White is corroborated by the picture in **Ezekiel 28:2-10** where the nations will **unsheathe their swords** against the covering cherub, Lucifer. The waters will dry up on Satan.



'THE FAITH ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS'
BY Pastor Stephen Bohr

**LESSON #4 - ELLEN WHITE'S INTERPRETATION OF
DANIEL 11:40-12:2: A DEDUCTIVE STUDY**

Presented at the Village SDA Church Berrien Springs, MI

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Pastor Stephen P. Bohr, President Secrets Unsealed/SUMTV

Introductory Remarks

A much-discussed prophetic passage that Ellen White never quoted or alluded to is Daniel 11:40-45. These verses have always been a subject of lively discussion among Adventist theologians. Until recent years, most agreed that the king of the north symbolizes the papacy and the king of the south represents the rise of atheism or secularism at the time of the French Revolution.

However, in recent times, a new view has appeared on the horizon that sees radical Islam—perceived as the king of the south—playing a significant role in the fulfillment of this prophecy. Those who have embraced this view have concluded that the war against Al-Qaeda, the Taliban and Isis, as well as radical Islamic terrorist attacks in the west, are so significant that they must be contemplated somewhere in Bible prophecy. This point of view has sparked a renewed interest in the study of these verses along with the fifth and sixth trumpets and the last three plagues of Revelation 16.

Frequently, Ellen White has provided valuable guidance in the interpretation of difficult prophetic passages. However, unlike other portions in Daniel, Ellen White seems to be almost totally silent on Daniel eleven, particularly verses 40-

45. Nowhere, to my knowledge does she ever quote these verses or echo their terminology.

This seeming silence has led some to conclude that Ellen White had nothing to say about them. We therefore ask, did Ellen White offer any interpretation of Daniel 11:40-45 or does her **apparent** silence indicate that the meaning of these verses would remain a mystery until long after her death? In this paper, we will seek to answer this question.

Ellen White's Three References to Daniel 11

To my knowledge, there are only **three primary** references to Daniel 11 in the published writings of Ellen G. White (except for one in *A Word to the Little Flock*).

The first of these is **indirect**, the second is **general** and the third is **specific**. Only in the specific reference does Ellen White quote any verses from the chapter (verses 30-36). Unfortunately, as stated before, she never quoted or even echoed the language of verses 40-45 so it would **seem** well-nigh impossible to know if or how she understood them.

The **first reference** is **indirect** because Ellen White did not mention Daniel 11 by name. However, she did allude to the chapter by mentioning the visions that God gave to Daniel on the banks of the rivers Ulai (Daniel 8) and Hiddekel (Daniel 10 and 11). In **1896**, she wrote:

*"The light that Daniel received from God was given especially for these last days. The visions he saw by the banks of the Ulai [Daniel 8:2] and the Hiddekel [Daniel 10:4 and chapter 11], the great rivers of Shinar, are now in **process** of fulfillment, and **all** the events foretold **will soon come to pass.**" TM, p. 112.*

In the **second reference**, Ellen White used the expression, 'the eleventh chapter of Daniel', but only in **general** terms. She wrote in **1909**:

*"The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the **eleventh chapter** of Daniel has **nearly reached** its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place." 9T, p. 14.*

Ellen White wrote the **third quotation** in **1904** and it is the only one where she **quoted** verses from the chapter:

"We have no time to lose. Troublous times are before us. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place. The prophecy in the eleventh of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Much of the history that has taken place in fulfillment of this prophecy will be repeated. In the thirtieth verse a power is spoken of that "shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant." [she then quotes verses 31-36] Scenes similar to those described in these words [in verses 30-36] will take place." Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, volume 13, p. 394 (Letter 103, 1904).

Analysis of Ellen White's Three References

Now let's take a closer look at the three references above.

The indirect quotation in *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 112 (1896) does not specifically mention Daniel 11 but provides two important details:

First, God gave Daniel the prophecy of chapter 8 by the River Ulai (Dan. 8:2) and the one in Daniel 10 and 11 by the Hiddekel (Dan. 10:4). The coupling of these prophecies by Ellen White indicates that they are parallel and run concurrently. Therefore, Daniel 11 must be seen as an expansion of chapter 8. Second, these two prophecies were in the process of fulfillment in 1896 but Ellen White did not specify how far the process had advanced.

The general quotation in *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 9, p. 14, adds some valuable information. When Ellen White wrote this testimony in 1909, she stated that the prophecy of Daniel 11 had nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Therefore, we can be certain that in 1909 the process of fulfillment was in the last few verses.

The specific quotation in *Manuscript Releases*, volume 13, p. 394 (1904) contains some valuable information not found in the other two. There, Ellen White explained that **much of the history** of this chapter had been fulfilled before 1904 and she also wrote that the history would be repeated. The question is, which history was she specifically referring to? Fortunately, we don't have to guess because she immediately quoted verses 30-36. Then, after quoting these verses, she underlined again that much of the history in these

verses would occur once more, not identically but in similar fashion. In her words: "Scenes similar to those described in these words will take place."

Clearly, Ellen White understood that the historical events in verses 30-36 (as well as verses 37-39 that she does not quote) had already reached their fulfillment when she wrote. Now, if verses 30-39 had already reached their fulfillment when she wrote in 1904, then the repetition of much of the history must occur in verses 40-45. Thus, verses 30-39 describe events that transpired before 1904, and verses 40-45 describe similar events in the future.

We must underline that Ellen White did not write that these verses would have a dual fulfillment, one past and the other future. She wrote that much of the history that had already been fulfilled would repeat in similar fashion in the future. In other words, it is not the prophecy that will be repeated but rather much of the history that had already fulfilled the prophecy. The repetition will be similar, not identical.

A Repetition of History

Now we must ask why much of the history of the past (verses 30-39) will repeat in similar fashion in the future (verses 40-45). The answer is not hard to find. Daniel 11:30-39 echoes many of the character traits of the little horns in Daniel seven and eight and the Man of Sin in 2 Thessalonians 2. History proves that the arrogant and persecuting power described in these verses is the Roman Catholic papacy as it behaved during its 1260-year career. From 538 to 1798 AD, this apostate system joined church and state and used the sword of the civil powers of Europe to persecute dissenters—and it prospered! (Dan. 7:25; 8:12; 11:36).

History reveals that at the end of the 1260 years, the papacy received a deadly wound when the civil power of France turned against it in the aftermath of the French Revolution. However, prophecy indicates that this did not end the papacy's career. Revelation 13 predicts that after a period of convalescence, its deadly wound will be healed (Rev. 13:3). Revelation 13:11-18 points out that the United States will heal the deadly wound by making a replica of what the papacy was in her lurid past. When the papacy recovers the sword of civil power it will behave as it did in the past. Thus, much of the history of past papal oppression will repeat in similar fashion in the future.

In Summary

Ellen White believed that Daniel 11:30-36 (also verses 37-39 although she does not quote them) **was fulfilled** in the past. She also believed that much of **the history** that fulfilled these verses will transpire once more in **similar** fashion. Now, if verses 30-39 had already been fulfilled when Ellen White wrote in 1904, then we must find the similar repetition of that history in verses 40-45.

In the following quotations, Ellen White described the past career of the papacy and her rise to power in the future:

*"The influence of Rome in the countries that once acknowledged her dominion is still far from being destroyed. And prophecy foretells a **restoration of her power**. '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' Verse 3." **GC**, p. 579.*

*"When our nation shall so abjure the principles of its government as to enact a Sunday law, **Protestantism** will in this act join hands with **popery**; it will be nothing else that **giving life** to the tyranny which has long been eagerly watching its opportunity to **spring again** into **active** despotism." **5T**, p. 712.*

*"Protestants will throw their whole influence and strength on the side of the Papacy; by a national act enforcing the false Sabbath, they will **give life** and **vigor** to the corrupt faith of Rome, **reviving** her tyranny and oppression of conscience. Then it will be time for God to work in mighty power for the vindication of his truth." **ST**, June 12, 1893.*

*"It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a **repetition** of the persecutions of the **past** are **blended**." **9T**, p. 16.*

It can hardly escape our attention that the blending of the persecutions of the past with those of the future are in the very chapter where Ellen White wrote that the prophecy of Daniel 11 has 'nearly reached its complete fulfillment':

*"The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place." **9T**, p. 14.*

In the light of the foregoing analysis, we can safely conclude that the scenes of the papacy's past career in **verses 30-39** will repeat once more in similar fashion in **verses 40-45**.

The Key to Ellen White's View

Did Ellen White have anything to say about the events described in verses 40-45? The question is, where would we begin to look if she never quotes these verses or uses their terminology?

I believe that Daniel 12:1 contains the key that unlocks Ellen White's understanding of these verses. Though she never quoted or alluded to the verbiage of Daniel 11:40-45 she did quote the next two verses, **Daniel 12:1, 2**. As we shall see below, the place where she quoted Daniel 12:1, 2 in *The Great Controversy*, unveils her understanding of the immediately preceding verses at the end of chapter 11.

Working Deductively

Because Ellen White did not quote or allude to the terminology of verses 40-45 in *The Great Controversy*, we cannot work **inductively** from verse 40 forwards because we don't know where to find her comments on verse 40. What we must do then, is work **deductively** (retroactively like a detective) from Daniel 12:1, 2 backwards. Let's take a look at these verses:

*"At that time **Michael shall stand up**, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a **time of trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people **shall be delivered**, everyone who is found written in the book and many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth **shall awake**, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt."*

The bold type above describes **four sequential events**:

1. The **standing up** of Michael.
2. The **time of trouble**.
3. The **deliverance** of those who are written in the book.
4. The **special resurrection**.

Let's consider how Ellen G. White developed these four events in *The Great Controversy* but in **reverse order**, beginning with the fourth item on the list and working backwards to the first:

- The **fourth item (GC, p. 637)**: Ellen White quoted Daniel 12:2 to describe the **fourth** item on the list, the **special resurrection**:

"Graves are opened, and 'many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth. awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.' Daniel 12:2."

- The **third item (GC, p. 635)**: Ellen White described the **third** item on the list, the deliverance of God's people. The chapter's title is '*God's People Delivered*' and at the beginning of the chapter she states:

*"The people of God—some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains—still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity that the God of Israel will interpose for the **deliverance of His chosen**."*

Ellen White had concluded the previous chapter ('*The Time of Trouble*') by introducing the central theme of the next:

*"Glorious will be the **deliverance** of those who have patiently waited for His coming and whose **names are written** in the book of life." *GC*, p. 634*

- The **second item (GC, p. 616)**: Ellen White described the **second** item on the list by explaining the time of trouble through which God's people pass:

*"The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress described by the prophet as the **time of Jacob's trouble**."*

- The **first item (GC, p. 613)**: Ellen White began the chapter on '*The Time of Trouble*' by quoting Daniel 12:1 and then explained the meaning of the 'standing up' of Michael, the **first** item on the list.

*"Then Jesus **ceases His intercession** in the sanctuary above. . . When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God **without an intercessor**."*

Summary of Ellen White's Comments on Daniel 12:1, 2

Let us look now at Ellen White's development of Dan.12:1, 2 in its textual order:

- Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 613: The standing up of Michael.
- Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 616: The time of trouble.
- Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 635: God's people delivered.
- Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 637: The special resurrection.

The perceptive reader will notice that Ellen White, in *The Great Controversy*, develops the events of Daniel 12:1, 2 in the precise order in which they appear in Daniel 12:1, 2.

The Expression 'at that time'

However, we cannot understand Daniel 12:1, 2 isolated from its immediately preceding context because these verses are a continuation of events at the end of chapter 11. We know this because Daniel 12:1 begins with a time reference, '*at that time*'. This temporal expression links Daniel 12:1, 2 with what occurred previously in verses 40-45 particularly verses 44 and 45.

The crucial question at this point is this: Where would we expect to find Ellen White's comments about the events that will occur immediately before Daniel 12:1, 2? The answer is unmistakable. We must find them in the pages that immediately precede the chapter on the standing up of Michael.

The Literary Structure of Daniel 11:44b-45 and 12:1

Now let us carefully consider the literary structure of verses 44b-45 to determine how they relate to Daniel 12:1, 2. The purpose is to ascertain the event to which the expression '*at that time*' points.

A careful comparison of verses 44b, 45 with Daniel 12:1 reveals that they describe the same events in the same order but with different terminology and emphasis:

Daniel 11:44b-45: Focuses on the actions and destiny of the king of the north:

- A. The king of the north goes out to destroy and annihilate many (11:44b).

- B. The king of the north **sets up the tents** of his palace in a strategic place between the seas and the glorious holy mountain to give a final deathblow to the Remnant (11:45a).
- C. The king of the north **comes to his end** with none to help him (11:45b).

Daniel 12:1: Focuses on the jeopardy and deliverance of the Remnant:

- A. Michael stands up **to defend** His people (parallel to 11:44b).
- B. A **time of trouble** such as never was ensues (parallel to 11:45a).
- C. God **delivers** His people from the king of the north (parallel to 11:45b).

Daniel 11:44b-45 and 12:1 are precisely parallel but they portray a different emphasis. Whereas Daniel 11:44b-45 highlights the activities of the **king of the north** and its destiny for oppressing God's people, Daniel 12:1 focuses on the **jeopardy of God's people** at the hand of the king of the north and their deliverance by God. This is how it works out:

- ✓ **11:44b with 12:1a:** When the king of the north goes "*out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many*" (11:44b), Michael will stand up to protect and defend them (12:1a).
- ✓ **11:45a with 12:1b:** When the king of the north places the tents of his palace in a strategic location to deliver the final deathblow against God's Remnant (11:45a; vividly described in GC, p. 635), they will experience a terrible time of trouble such as never was (12:1b).
- ✓ **11:45b with 12:1c:** However, the king of the north will "*come to his end with none to help him*" (11:45b) when God intervenes to deliver His people who are written in the book (12:1c).

The expression "*at that time*" thus links Daniel 11:44b-45 with Daniel 12:1. God answers the **actions** of the king of the north by counteractions in defense of His Faithful Remnant.

What about Daniel 11:44A?

What about Daniel 11:44a? The text tells us that '*tidings from the north and from the east will trouble the king of the north*' and lead him to go forth with '*great fury to destroy and annihilate many*'. Thus, the '*tidings from the north and from the east*' explain **the reason** why the king of the north will go out and attempt to destroy and annihilate many.

What is this news from the north and the east that so infuriates the king of the north? We must go to the book of Revelation for the answer because Revelation unseals and expands upon Daniel:

“The books of Daniel and the Revelation are one. One is a prophecy, the other a revelation; one a book sealed, the other a book opened.” Ellen G. White, Christ Triumphant, p. 344.

“The book of Daniel is unsealed in the revelation to John, and carries us forward to the last scenes of this earth's history.” TM, p. 115.

Revelation 7:2 describes an angel who ascends from the east with the seal of the living God. This angel places the seal of God on the foreheads of those who sigh and cry (the Loud Cry) because of the abominations being committed by those who profess to serve God (cf. Ezek. 9:1-6). In contrast, the land beast of Revelation 13:11-18 will impose the mark of the beast on the unfaithful and sentence to death those who sigh and cry (Rev. 13:15, 16). Thus, the work of the sealing angel from the east will enrage the wicked who have the mark of the beast.

Revelation 18:1-5 vividly describes a powerful Loud Cry angel who descends from heaven (the abode of the true king of the north according to Isaiah 14:13 and Psalms 48:1, 2). The mighty angel denounces the sins of Babylon, and gives a clarion call for God's Faithful Remnant to reject the mark of the beast and get out of Babylon before she suffers the seven last plagues and comes to her end with none to help her. Thus, the book of Revelation identifies the tidings from the north and east as the sealing message and the call to come out of Babylon.

Ellen White concurs with this Biblical view. The title of the chapter that immediately precedes the standing up of Michael and the time of trouble bears the title, *“The Final Warning.”* She begins this chapter in GC, p. 603 by quoting Revelation 18:1, 2, 4 and 5 and in perfect accordance with Daniel 11:44a and Revelation 7:2 she then described on page 605 the issue that will divide the world:

“While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God's law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign

of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God.” GC, p. 605.

In the same chapter, Ellen White went on to describe the rage that this message will awaken in the religious world:

“The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it.” GC, p. 607.

In the next chapter, Ellen White flashes back to events leading up to the time of trouble:

“The power attending the last warning has enraged the wicked; their anger is kindled against all who have received the message, and Satan will excite to still greater intensity the spirit of hatred and persecution.” GC, pp. 614, 615.

In short, the news from the north is identified in Revelation 18:1-5 as the Latter Rain and Loud Cry of the angel who descends from heaven (the north) and the news from the east is the message concerning the seal of God in Revelation 7:1-3. Thus, Daniel 11:44a describes the message from the north and the east that enrages the king of the north to the point of wanting to destroy God’s remnant as described in Daniel 11:44b.

The Beginning Point of Daniel 11:40-45

In this paper we have focused primarily on the events from Daniel 11:44 to Daniel 12:2. However, if we continued moving backwards in *The Great Controversy* (before page 603) we would find, in reverse order, that Ellen White expounded upon each phrase of Daniel 11:40-45 ending with the chapter on “*The Bible and the French Revolution*” where she describes the deadly wound of Daniel 11:40a (GC, pp. 265-288). Remarkably, although she does not employ the terminology of verses 40-45, the sequence of events clearly reveals that she is discussing them.

Daniel 11:40a tells us that the king of the south would push at the king of the north at the time of the end. Ellen White clearly identifies the beginning of the time of the end as the year 1798 when France dealt the papacy its deadly wound:

"But since 1798 the book of Daniel has been unsealed, knowledge of the prophecies has increased [Dan. 12:4], and many have proclaimed the solemn message of the judgment near." (GC, p. 356; cf. Daniel 12:4).

The word 'push' does not adequately portray the nuance of the Hebrew word. The historical event that this word describes was not a friendly nudge or shove. The NIV translates: "*will engage him in battle*" while the ESV translates "*shall attack him*". The word is used elsewhere to describe an animal goring with horns (cf. Ex. 21:28, 31; Dan. 8:4). That is, in the year 1798 the power described as the king of the south gored or attacked the king of the north. This proves that 1798 is the starting point of Daniel 11:40-12:2 and the special resurrection is its ending point.

Who is the King of the South?

There is a wide consensus among students of prophecy in the Seventh-day Adventist Church that the king of the north symbolizes the papacy. Furthermore, until recent times there was a broad consensus that the king of the south represents secularism that grew out of the French Revolution. However, times have changed and some Adventist preachers, as they look at current events, are reinterpreting the king of the south as a symbol of militant Islam.

Literally and geographically speaking, the king of the south was Egypt because Egypt was the kingdom south of Israel (see Dan. 11:5, 8). However, in eschatology we are not dealing with literal geographical locations but rather with global systems. Louis Were expressed the principle:

"When passing over into the Christian era there is an automatic transition from literal to spiritual Babylon; from literal to spiritual Jerusalem; from the literal lands of Israel and Babylon to their spiritual antitypes." Louis F. Were, The King of the North at Jerusalem, p. 75. This book is available at secretsunsealed.org.

Who was the king of the south in 1798, symbolically speaking? Revelation 11 clearly identifies France as 'spiritual Egypt' (verse 8). Thus, while Babylon (the king of the north) represents a global apostate religious system, Egypt symbolizes the secular powers of the world that threw off the yoke of papal Rome beginning with France. Revelation 17 explains that for a very short while at the end, the secular powers of the world will once again join together

in **unholy wedlock** with the harlot as they did with the papacy during the 1260 years, but in the end the kings of the earth (as did France) will hate the Babylonian harlot and destroy her (Rev. 17:15, 16).

In Biblical times, Babylon was the **literal** king of the north because it was a literal enemy that came from the literal north against literal Israel. However, today the king of the north is a **global spiritual system** of counterfeit religion—the Roman Catholic papacy (see Rev. 17:1-6). The Roman papacy is certainly not literally north of literal Israel (it is actually west). We must therefore interpret the king of the north and the king of the south symbolically.

What was the **main characteristic** of France in 1798? The spirit of the French Revolution was atheism but actually, Daniel 11:40a involves far **more** than a **denial of God's existence**. The genius of the Revolution culminating with the captivity of Pope Pius VI was to secularize the government and separate it from its adulterous relationship with the church. In the course of several decades after the French Revolution, country after country in Europe established **secular governments** separate from the dominance of the papacy. In **1862**, Cardinal Henry Edward Manning (a convert from the Anglican Church) complained about how the secular governments of Europe had forsaken the papacy:

*“See this Catholic Church, this Church of God, feeble and weak, rejected even by the **very nations called Catholic**. There is Catholic **France**, and Catholic **Germany**, and Catholic **Italy** giving up this exploded figment of the **temporal power** of the Vicar of Jesus Christ.’ And so, because the Church **seems weak** and the Vicar of the Son of God is renewing the Passion of his Master upon earth, therefore we are scandalized, therefore we **turn our faces from him**.”* (Henry Cardinal Manning, *The Temporal Power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ*, pp. 140, 141).

And when Victor Emmanuel II confiscated the Papal States and united Italy in 1870, the popes, in protest, declared themselves prisoners of the Vatican until 1929. Ellen White explained why the papacy has not been able to wield power as in the past:

*“Let the restraints now imposed by secular governments be removed and Rome be **reinstated** in her former power, and there would speedily be a **revival** of her tyranny and persecution.”* *GC*, p. 564.

The Flow in Daniel 11 and The Great Controversy

Both Daniel 11:40-12:2 and *The Great Controversy* provide the identical sequence of events:

Daniel 11:40a: Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, pp. 265-288:

France ‘attacked’ the papacy and inflicted the deadly wound thus severing the illicit love relationship between church and state. The secular powers removed the civil sword from the papacy.

Daniel 11:40b-11:43: Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, pp. 289-605:

A description of the events that transpired between the infliction of the deadly wound in 1798 and the beginning of the tidings from the east and north.

Daniel 11:44a: Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 605:

The Faithful Remnant will proclaim the call to come out of Babylon (tidings from the north) and the sealing message (tidings from the east). This is the Loud Cry empowered by the Latter Rain.

Daniel 11:44b; 12:1a: Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 607 (flashback to the past in GC, pp. 614, 615):

The sealing message and the call out of Babylon will enrage the wicked and Michael will stand up to protect those who are written in the book (cf. Daniel 11:2, 3).

Daniel 11:45a; 12:1b: Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 613-635:

A universal death decree will be written against the Remnant and the king of the north will set up his ‘tents’ outside spiritual Jerusalem (the Remnant Church) intent on delivering a final deathblow. This will bring about the time of trouble for the Remnant (cf. Matthew 24:21, 22).

Daniel 11:45b; 12c: Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 635ff:

The king of the north will come to his end with none to help because his base will turn against him. Michael will deliver His Remnant.

Daniel 12:2: Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 637:

Those who died in the faith of the third angel’s message will rise in a special resurrection along with those who pierced Jesus.

Thus the two reference points for the beginning and ending of Daniel 11:40-12:2 are the French Revolution at the beginning as described in *The Great Controversy*, pp. 265-288 and the deliverance of God's people and the special resurrection in *The Great Controversy*, pp. 635, 637. Ellen White describes the events that occur between these two reference points in *The Great Controversy*, pp. 289-604. A careful study of these pages reveals that Ellen White comments on all the details in verses 40b-43 without actually quoting the verses or using the verbiage.

Ellen G. White and Islam

It is uncanny how Ellen White vividly describes the events of Daniel 11:40-45 without ever quoting the verses or alluding to the language. The question is, why did she not simply come out and quote the verses and then comment on them? There is a clear historical reason.

The original view of the pioneers was that the king of the north represents the Roman Catholic papacy. This is the clear view expressed in the pamphlet *A Word to the Little Flock Scattered Abroad*, coauthored by James and Ellen White in 1847. However, in the early 1870's Uriah Smith, who was the highly respected editor of the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, changed the view of the pioneers, reinterpreting the king of the north as **Turkey** because Turkey was prominent in the news of the day. Smith changed the traditional view to fit current events.

James White was not pleased with Smith's new view and accused him of removing one of the landmarks of the Advent Movement. Things started getting testy and members began taking sides. In this context, Ellen White instructed her husband to desist of his criticism. Undoubtedly she knew that an understanding of Daniel 11:40-45 was not an urgent matter at that time. Her main concern was to preserve the unity of the church. If Ellen White had quoted the verses of Daniel 11:40-45 and offered a view contradictory to Uriah Smith's, she would have been accused of nepotism so she expounded upon these verses without quoting them or alluding to the language, knowing full well that someday someone would discover her view of the matter.

Significantly, in the eschatological portion of *The Great Controversy*, Ellen White does not mention Islam, even once, as playing any role in the fulfillment of Bible

prophecy at the end. It appears that Ellen White saw no prophetic significance to the rise of radical Islam. The same is true of the great chain prophecies of Scripture. There is no reference to Islam in the prophecies of Daniel 2, Daniel 7, Daniel 8 and 9, Revelation 12, Revelation 13, Matthew 24, and Revelation 17. Neither is there any reference to Islam in the series of the churches and the seals.

Ellen White's silence on the role of Islam in Bible prophecy has puzzled some Seventh-day Adventist scholars who have concluded that Ellen White simply did not have all the light on end-time events. At least one of these scholars some time ago reached the conclusion that Ellen White was wrong in her interpretation of the little horn as a symbol of the papacy.

Don't get me wrong. I am not saying that Islam might not play a role in the precipitation of end-time events as Ellen White describes them in *The Great Controversy*. It is true that Islam might serve as the catalyst for the fulfillment of Bible prophecies concerning the United States and the papacy, but I do not believe that prophecy contemplates the rising power of militant Islam directly.

That is to say, in the light of the Biblical evidence I do not believe that radical Islam fulfills any specific end-time prophecy but very well could serve as a catalyst for the fulfillment of prophecy. The events of 9/11 and the war against Al-Qaeda and Isis has curtailed our civil and religious liberties and has also misdirected the eyes of Christians (and even a few Seventh-day Adventists) to the Middle East for the fulfillment of prophecy thus hiding from view the powers that will play a role in end time events, the papacy, apostate Protestantism and the secular powers of the world.



'THE FAITH ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS'

BY Pastor Stephen Bohr

LESSON #5 - A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT ELLEN WHITE'S VIEW OF THE SEVEN PLAGUES

Ellen White had much to say in *The Great Controversy* about Daniel and Revelation. However, there are some portions of these books that she never quoted such as, the supernatural darkness of the fifth plague (Rev. 16:10, 11), and the drying up of the Euphrates (Rev. 16:12), the Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16) ** and the kings from the east (Rev. 16:12) of the sixth.

Is it just possible that she had much to say about these verses although she never quoted them? Let's consider the last three plagues of Revelation 16 as an example of how to find Ellen White's commentary on verses that she never quoted.

In **GC, p. 628** Ellen White used less than one page to describe the first four plagues (Rev. 16:1-9) quoting phrases from all four. Strangely enough, however, in the next seven pages she did not follow up with the last three. In fact, after page 628, she never quoted any verses from the fifth or sixth plagues in the rest of the book. This has led some to wonder whether Ellen White had any light on the supernatural darkness of the fifth plague and the drying up of the Euphrates, the battle of Armageddon and the kings that come from the east in the sixth.

It is important to note, however, that Ellen White did quote verses that describe the seventh plague in **GC, pp. 636, 637**. Thus, she quoted from the first four on page 628 and the seventh on pages 636, 637 but quoted no verses on the fifth or sixth in between. Thus there appears to be a gap between the fourth plague and the seventh.

Summarizing:

- ✓ Quotes from the first four plagues (GC, p. 628).
- ✓ No quotations from the fifth or sixth plagues (GC, pp. 629-635).
- ✓ Quotations from the seventh plague (GC, pp. 636, 637).

On the surface, it would appear that Ellen White had nothing to say in *The Great Controversy* about the fifth and sixth plagues because she does not quote any verses. However, as we shall see, appearances can be deceiving!

If Ellen White did offer any commentary on the fifth and sixth plagues, where would we expect to find it? Where would we look for her remarks on the plague of darkness, the drying up of the Euphrates, the battle of Armageddon and the kings that come from the east?

The answer to this question is obvious. If she quotes verses from the first four plagues in GC, p. 628, and the seventh plague in GC, pp. 636, 637, we would expect her commentary on the fifth and sixth somewhere in between!

The Key to Ellen White's Commentary

The key to understand Ellen White's perspective of the fifth and sixth plagues is in GC, p. 635 where she describes the wicked multitudes of Babylon, the swirling waters of the symbolic Euphrates upon which the harlot sits, (Rev. 17:1, 2, 15) preparing to execute the death decree. As the flooding waters are about to slay God's people, the darkness of the fifth plague falls upon Babylon. Here is how Ellen White described the events leading up to the fifth plague of darkness:

"With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men [the symbolic waters of the Euphrates] are about to rush upon their prey, when, lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, [the fifth plague] falls upon the earth." (GC, p. 635)

It should not surprise us that the rushing waters of the sea in Scripture symbolize multitudes, nations and peoples that are inimical to God's people and which God will rebuke!

"Woe to the multitude of many people who make a noise like the roar of the seas, and to the rushing of nations that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!"¹³ The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters; but God will rebuke them and they will flee far away, and be chased like the chaff of the mountains before the wind, like a rolling thing before the whirlwind." (Isaiah 17:12-13)

The darkness of the sixth plague arrests the multitudes, that is, dries up the waters of the symbolic Euphrates upon which the harlot sits (Rev. 17:1, 2, 15).

This is how Ellen White described it:

"the angry multitudes [the waters composed of multitudes, nations, tongues and peoples] are suddenly arrested [the waters of the Euphrates dry up]. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their murderous rage are forgotten." (GC, p. 635)

In the scenario that Ellen White portrays, after the darkness of the fifth plague and the drying up of the waters, of the sixth, the kings—Christ and His angels—come from the east (Matthew 24:27) to rescue the persecuted Remnant:

"Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. . . Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. . . 'Faithful and True,' 'in righteousness He doth judge and make war.' And 'the armies which were in heaven' (Revelation 19:11, 14) follow Him. With anthems of celestial melody, the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way". GC, pp. 640, 641

This is how it all works out:

- ✓ The wicked multitudes of Babylon (the symbolic Euphrates) are about to drown God's people.
- ✓ The dense darkness of the fifth plague falls upon the earth.
- ✓ The angry waters of Babylon's symbolic Euphrates suddenly dry up or are arrested when God's voice utters the words, 'it is done'—symbolically portrayed as the breath or sword from His mouth— (Rev. 19:15; Isa. 11:4; GC, pp. 636, 637).
- ✓ Jesus and the angels come from the east to gather the remnant (cf. Rev. 19; 11-14).

The Desolation of the Earth

However, there is still a missing piece of the puzzle. In the following chapter ("The Desolation of the Earth"), Ellen White explains that the supporters of Babylon will not only withdraw their support or dry up on Babylon. After withdrawing their support, they will turn against the religious leaders of Babylon to 'drown' them.

In the chapter, *The Desolation of the Earth*, Ellen White returns to the moment when the voice of God delivered His people from the raging waters of Babylon (GC 635). We know that she returned to the beginning point of the previous chapter because both begin with the voice of God turning the captivity of His people:

*"When the **voice of God** turns the captivity of His people, there is a terrible awakening of those who have lost all in the great conflict of life."* *GC*, p. 654

Then Ellen White expands upon the meaning of the drying up of the waters and how they will vent their rage against the religious leaders of Babylon who have deceived them:

*"The **people** [the waters upon whom Babylon sits] see that they have been deluded. They accuse one another of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon **the ministers**. **Unfaithful pastors** have prophesied **smooth things**; they have led their hearers to make **void the law** of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception. The **multitudes** are **filled with fury**. "We are lost!" they cry, "and you are the cause of our ruin;" and they **turn upon the false shepherds**. The very ones that once admired them most will pronounce the most dreadful curses upon them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God's people are now employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is strife and bloodshed."* *GC*, p. 655.

** Ellen White does use the phrase 'battle of Armageddon' in other places (7BC, p. 982; 3SM, p. 426) but only in general terms. However, I was not able to find a single example in *The Great Controversy* where she quoted Revelation 16, verses 12 and 16. Furthermore, she never quoted Revelation 16:10, 11 that

describe the fifth plague. Ellen White did quote verses 13-15 but made it clear that they take us back to events that began before the close of probation:

*"The Spirit of God **is** gradually withdrawing from the world. Satan **is** also mustering his forces of evil, going forth 'unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world,' to gather them under his banner, to be trained for 'the battle of that great day of God Almighty' [Revelation 16:14]."* Ellen G. White, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, p. 983.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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