

# Leaves of Life

*Tree of Life Ministries*

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Special Edition 13b

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**Past, Present and Future**

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5<sup>th</sup> November, 2018

**“E**noch, the seventh from Adam, **was ever prophesying the coming of the Lord.** This great event had been revealed to him in vision. Abel, though dead, is ever speaking of the blood of Christ which alone can make our offerings and gifts perfect. **The Bible has accumulated and bound up together its treasures for this last generation. All the great events and solemn transactions of Old Testament history have been, and are, repeating themselves in the church in these last days.** There is **Moses** still speaking, teaching self-renunciation by wishing himself blotted from the Book of Life for his fellow men, that they might be saved. **David** is leading the intercession of the church for the salvation of souls to the ends of the earth. **The prophets** are still testifying of the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow. **There the whole accumulated truths are presented in force to us that we may profit by their teachings. We are under the influence of the whole.** What manner of persons ought we to be to whom all this rich light of inheritance has been given. **Concentrating all the influence of the past with new and increased light of the present,** accrued power is given to all who will follow the light. Their faith will increase, and be brought into exercise at the present time, awakening an energy and an intensely increased earnestness, and through dependence upon God for his power to replenish the world and send the light of the Sun of Righteousness to the ends of the earth.” { *Selected Messages, Book 3, P. 339, par. 1* }

**“As we near the close of this world’s history, the prophecies recorded by Daniel demand our special attention, as they relate to the very time in which we are living.** With them should be linked the teachings of the last book of the New Testament Scriptures. Satan has led many to believe that the prophetic portions of the writings of Daniel and of John the revelator cannot be understood. **But the promise is plain that special blessing will accompany the study of these prophecies. ‘The wise shall understand’** ( verse 10), was spoken of the visions of Daniel that were to be unsealed in the latter days; and of the revelation that Christ gave to His servant John for the guidance of God’s people all through the centuries, the promise is,...

# Tree of Life Ministries

**T**ree of Life Ministries is a self-supporting, non-profit, Seventh-day Adventist ministry, which was officially registered in Germany in 2016. At present, the majority of its members are based in Austria.

Our mission is to prepare Seventh-day Adventists for the soon-coming crisis and to teach the everlasting gospel of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14 through seminars, video productions and written publications. We believe that we are living in the last generation, for whom the entire Bible has been written. Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us. The different stories in the Bible typify events that will take place at the end of the world. History will repeat itself. We must study the scriptures "line upon line" in light of their prophetic application to the final generation. This constitutes the "present truth" for this time, which is needed to prepare the church to receive the "latter rain." By understanding the spiritual application of these histories, we are to learn "righteousness by faith."

*Leaves of Life* is a present truth periodical, which is mainly compiled and edited by Mark Bruce.

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... 'Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein. Revelation 1:3.'" {*Prophets and Kings, P. 547, par. 2*}

## Introduction

**T**he purpose of this edition is to explain what the Statue in Daniel 2 and 3 represents for us at the end of the world, so that we can understand how it plays its part within the structure of the "Binding off." I would therefore like to take the time to show how this statue is a figure of the threefold union of Babylon, that will rise up at the soon coming Sunday Law crisis, at Midnight Point B. In line with the principle that the Lord is the Alpha and Omega and that He takes the natural things to show us spiritual things, let us first look at the historical context of the statue and what it relates to, so that we can thereafter correctly identify it in its perfect fulfilment.

## How History Will Repeat

**“****A**s the wheel like complications were under the guidance of the hand beneath the wings of the cherubim, so the complicated play of human events is under divine control. Amidst the strife and tumult of nations, He that sitteth above the cherubim still guides the affairs of the earth.”

**“The history of nations that one after another have occupied their allotted time and place, unconsciously witnessing to the truth of which they themselves knew not the meaning, speaks to us. To every nation and to every individual of today God has assigned a place in His great plan. Today men and nations are being measured by the plummet in the hand of Him who makes no mistake. All are by their own choice deciding their destiny, and God is overruling all for the accomplishment of His purposes.**

**“The history which the great I AM has marked out in His word, uniting link after link in the prophetic chain, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tells us where we are today in the procession of the ages, and what may be expected in the time to come. All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order.” {*Education, P. 178, par. 1-3*}**

Taken from chapter 1 of Ezekiel’s vision, Sister White links the vision of the wheels within wheels to the destiny of the nations. In Edition 5 we explained how the: “Flying Roll” in chapter 5 of the book of Zechariah, was also the same roll that Ezekiel was told to eat in chapter 2 and how this represented the judgment upon all, both men and nations and how it lists all of our deeds, whether they be good, or whether they be evil. The roll is also likened unto a book in Revelation 5 and 10. The book that will judge us according to Christ, is God’s word, the Bible.

**“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” (John 12:48)**

Sister White confirms this now when she explains how prophecy, which is written within God's word, holds an accurate account of the final rise and fall of all earthly nations.

**"The final overthrow of all earthly dominions is plainly foretold in the word of truth.** In the prophecy uttered when sentence from God was pronounced upon the last king of Israel is given the message:"

"Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: ... exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. **I will overturn, overturn, overturn,** it: and it shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him.' Ezekiel 21:26, 27.

"The crown removed from Israel passed successively to the kingdoms of **Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.** God says, 'It shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him.'

**"That time is at hand.** Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in agitation. **Before our eyes is fulfilling the Saviour's prophecy of the events to precede His coming:** 'Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars.... **Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:** and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.'" (Matthew 24:6, 7). {*Education, P. 179, par. 1-4*}

Notice above, how she parallels the final overthrow of the earthly kingdoms to Ezekiel's prophecy, which relates to the statue in Daniel chapter 2 and the Beast's in Daniel chapter 7. In that prophecy, it marks the overturning of Babylon by Medo-Persia, the overturning of Medo-Persia by Greece, and the overturning of Greece by Rome. It was during the reign of Rome that Christ came the first time, fulfilling the prophecy in its literal application. These historical events however, are pointing to the rise and fall of the final kingdoms of the world.

Sister White explains to us that the books of Daniel and the Revelation are in fact one book.

**"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..." {*Manuscript Releases, Volume 19, P. 320, par. 2*}

Therefore, let us go to the book of Revelation and let the prophet John bring some more thoughts together on this subject.

**"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials,** and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; **I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore** that sitteth upon many waters: **With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication,** and the inhabitants of the earth **have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.**" (Revelation 17:1, 2)

When we look closely at the verses above, it is one of the Angels which has the seven last plagues that comes to show John the judgment upon the whore. It tells us that

**“The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her,” and “Have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”**

In Leaves of Life Edition 12, on pages 7 and 8, it was explained that the point where the kings of the earth will commit fornication with the Papacy will be at the Sunday Law Crisis, where the deadly wound is healed. This, as we have studied, was typified by the 1260 years of papal oppression, which is a symbol for this period of persecution, that will take place during the Sunday Law crisis. We therefore understand, that although this Angel that comes, has come to show John the punishment at the end of the world, he first shows John the type, so that we can know what will repeat in our time.

John, who is standing in 1798, is taken back in time to see the type being fulfilled, from 538 AD to 1798 AD.

**“So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”** (Revelation 17:3)

The Bible explains to us that the wilderness spoken of here is a reference to this long period of persecution where the Woman (God’s Church) had to flee from this Whore (The Papacy), who was trying to destroy her.

**“And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.”** {Revelation 12:6}

**“And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.”** (Revelation 12:14)

In Revelation 17:3 above, John sees a woman sitting upon a **“Scarlet coloured beast.”** This beast has **“Seven heads and ten horns.”** If we let the Bible interpret itself, it will explain to us that the beast, on which the woman is sat upon, is the Dragon. If we go to Revelation 12:3 we see the very same beast.

**“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.”** (Revelation 12:3)

Scarlet is another word for red, depicting this same beast with the seven heads and ten horns. In Revelation 12.14 this dragon is described as a serpent, but the Bible explains to us that both of these symbols are the same thing.

**“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”** (Revelation 12:9)

“In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish **leviathan the piercing serpent**, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay **the dragon that is in the sea.**” (Isaiah 27:1)

Sister White now explains that this dragon in revelation 12 is representing Pagan Rome, which was the state power at that time.

“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 Saviour 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.**” {*The Great Controversy, P. 438, par. 2*}

The Dragon power is the power that persecutes, it is a symbol for the kings of the earth, which are the state powers who will do the bidding of the Pope. Here Sister White explains this very clearly.

“...**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. In their enmity against the people of God, they show themselves guilty also of the choice of Barabbas instead of Christ.” {*Testimonies to Ministers, P. 38, par.2*}

Therefore, in Revelation 12, we only see the dragon persecuting, the woman is concealed, teaching us something about the end of the world. However, John, in Revelation 17, is shown that there is in fact a woman, this “Great whore,” sitting on the dragon and controlling it, from 538-1798. This topic we already covered to some degree in Edition 12.

If we now bring together these thoughts, firstly, that all four kingdoms from Babylon to Rome, represents this final kingdom, that will repeat this persecution at the end of the world and how the Lord is going to deal with it. And secondly, that the 1260 years of Papal oppression, is also a parallel to these four kingdoms, leading down to its punishment. On the 1843 Chart at the bottom of the statue, it explains to us that the feet and toes represents the combination of Church and state: “The mingling of **churchcraft and statecraft** is represented by the **iron and the clay.**” {15MR 39.2}. Sister White has already told us that the Statue is a depiction of the Sunday law crisis. The chart depicts in the legs down to the toes, the fourth kingdom, which was Rome in its two phases, both pagan and papal. We can see that this fourth kingdom goes through a state of change, from the time when the Pagan Roman empire fell in 476 AD, to the time where the Papacy is set up in 538 AD, and leads down to 1798, where she receives her deadly wound. On the chart it also has marked at the bottom underneath the ten toes verses 44 and 45 from Daniel chapter 2 where it says: “**And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed...**” (Dan 2:44-45). This chart, which was

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**“Directed by the hand of the Lord,”** is telling us that the reign of the Papacy from 538-1798, is typifying the reign of the period where she, the Papacy, after her deadly wound is healed, will reign over the ten kings, representing the nations that at the end of the world, will be destroyed by the seven last plagues. Hence in Revelation 17, we see an angel with one of the seven last plagues, come to John, to show him the judgment of the Great whore.

Let us now prove this point, by comparing Daniel chapter 7 with Revelation 13. We will begin by going to Daniel 7, which as we have discussed is a representation of the four kingdoms, mentioned by Sister White in the book of Education, that leads down to the second coming of Christ.

“In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, **behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea**, diverse one from another. **The first was like a lion**, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And behold another beast, **a second, like to a bear**, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo **another, like a leopard**, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and **behold a fourth beast**, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.” (Daniel 7:1-7)

If we take the above illustration, remembering that it is speaking about the end of the world, it begins with four winds striving upon the sea, marking a point where four beasts are coming up out of that sea. Sister White explains that this striving upon the sea represents strife, war and revolution.

“The great kingdoms that have ruled the world were presented to the prophet Daniel as beasts of prey, rising when **‘the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.** Daniel 7:2. In Revelation 17 an angel explained that waters represent ‘peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.’ Revelation 17:15. **Winds are a symbol of strife.** The four winds of heaven striving upon the great sea **represent the terrible scenes of conquest and revolution** by which kingdoms have attained to power.” {*The Great Controversy, P. 439, par. 3*}

If we remember back to Edition 13 of this magazine we were demonstrating how the four winds, that had begun to blow, were being held in check until God’s servants had been sealed. We also showed that this began to take place at the Sunday law crisis.

We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange and eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven—events

which it was declared should shortly precede **the great day of God**. Everything in the world is in an unsettled state. **The nations are angry**, and great preparations for war are being made. **Nation is plotting against nation, and kingdom against kingdom**. The great day of God is hastening greatly. But although the nations are mustering their forces for war and bloodshed, **the command to the angels is still in force, that they hold the four winds until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.**"

**"The world is now realizing the sure results of transgression of the law of God.** His work of creation completed, the Lord rested on the seventh day, and sanctified the day of His rest, setting it apart as the day which man should devote to His worship. **But today the world at large is utterly disregarding the law of Jehovah. Another day has been instituted in the place of God's day of rest.** The human agent has set his way and his will against the positive teachings of the Word, and the world is plunged in rebellion and sin." *{Selected Messages Book 1, P. 221, 222}*

If we also remember, Sister White took that very point in Matthew 24, that the Bible marks as the Sunday law crisis and parallels it with February 21<sup>st</sup> 1848. What happened on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1848? There was a revolution! Therefore, if you bring the symbols down to the end of the world, the four winds striving marks the Sunday law crisis. Here, the Lord holds back the four winds, marking the point where this great image is rising, until God's people are sealed in their foreheads.

If we now go to Revelation 13 we can see a very nice parallel.

**"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority." (Rev 13:1-2)**

**"And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." (Rev 13:5)**

When we read the above verses with an understanding that this vision, in its historical setting, is a representation of the papacy from 538-1798 AD.

"In chapter 13 (verses 1-10) is described another beast, 'like unto a leopard,' to which the dragon gave 'his power, and his seat, and great authority.' **This symbol, as most Protestants have believed, represents the papacy**, which succeeded to the power and seat and authority once held by the ancient Roman empire..." *{The Great Controversy, P. 439, par. 1}*

First thing I want you to notice, is that this beast, like the beasts in Daniel chapter 7, is coming up out of the sea. It also has the characteristics of all of the same four beasts. The Lion (Babylon), the Bear (Medo-Persia), the Leopard (Greece) and the Dragon (Pagan Rome). As we have already seen, **the Dragon power (Which is Satan) represents the kings**

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**of the earth**, who gave their power to the beast, from 538-1798 AD. Therefore, when you bring these together, line upon line, both Daniel 7 and Revelation 13, are illustrating the rise of the world's last kingdom at the Sunday law, that was prefigured by those past earthly kingdoms.

Revelation 17 helps us to bring this all together.

“And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? **I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her**, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. **The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend** out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold **the beast that was, and is not, and yet is**. And here is the mind which hath wisdom. **The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth**. And there are seven kings: **five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come**; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.” (Rev 17:7-10)

John is standing in 1798, where the Papacy is now receiving its deadly wound, which fulfills the historical application (1 Corinthians 15:46). The Angel then, points him to the Beast that “**Was,**” from 538 AD – 1798 AD, representing the past. And then says “**Is not,**” from 1798 AD forward. This is representing the present, until she “**Shall ascend.**” This is pointing to the future when the deadly wound will be healed, where the Papacy will repeat the past. This represents the time of persecution, from Midnight point B to C, as a spiritual application of the time span, from 538 AD – 1798 AD.

It also states that the “**Woman,**” “**Mystery Babylon,**” sat upon the “**Seven heads,**” which are the seven heads of the Dragon (The civil powers). This woman represents the doctrines of Mystery Babylon, that have been passed down from Babylon, to each successive nation. In 1798 where John is standing prophetically “**Five are fallen.**” The first five heads as we know were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome, both Pagan and Papal. It then tells us that “**One is,**” representing the USA that arose in 1798 and “**Is**” just as the prophecy dictates. “**The other**” that has not yet come we know represents the “**Ten kings**” (Revelation 17:12), a symbol of the powers of the world, manifested through the UN, who will “**Give their power and strength unto the Beast.**”

Therefore, when the one that “**Was,**” “**Shall ascend,**” we know that the type, that the Angel revealed to John, when he took him back into the wilderness and showed him a woman sitting upon “**A scarlet coloured Beast,**” will reach its perfect fulfillment.

What I want you to see now, is that the Woman, “**Mystery Babylon,**” first sits on the Kingdoms of the statue in Daniel 2, from Babylon to Rome. However, the Papacy, in the feet and toes of the statue, depicted in Revelation 13:1,2 and Revelation 17:3, also sits prophetically upon the same four kingdoms, represented by the Lion, the Bear, the Leopard and the Dragon. It is like a fractal of the whole and is another witness to show that the 1260 is merely a depiction of the final rise and fall of the earthly kingdoms, listed in the book of Education, P. 179.

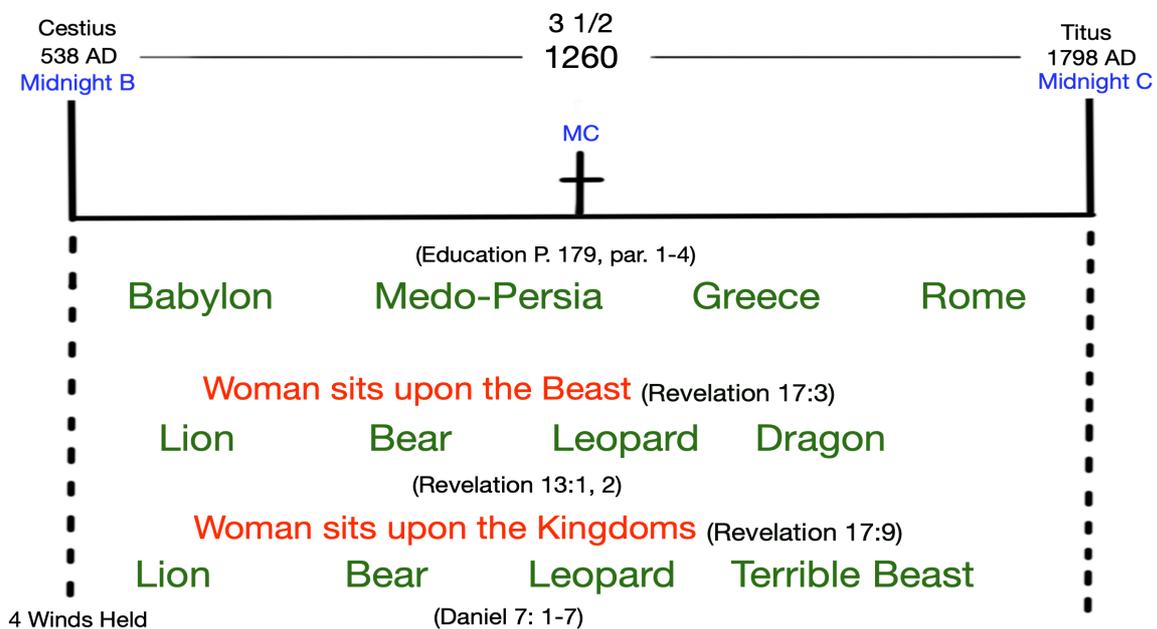
If five are fallen in 1798 and there are prophetically eight kingdoms of Bible prophecy, this will leave three kingdoms, to represent the final kingdom, that was typified by these past earthly kingdoms. We can find these three kingdoms in Revelation 16.

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of **the dragon**, and out of the mouth of **the beast**, and out of the mouth of **the false prophet**.” (Rev 16:13)

The religion of the Dragon (Kings of the Earth) is Spiritualism, the religion of the Beast (The Papacy) is Catholicism and the False Prophet (USA), is apostate protestantism. Sister White calls these three kingdoms the: “Threefold union.”

“Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. **The Protestants of the United States** will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of **spiritualism**; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with **the Roman power**; and under the influence of **this threefold union**, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.” {*The Great Controversy, P. 588, par. 1*}

Here is a diagram that may help us to bring all these thoughts together, to show what will happen when the deadly wound will be healed and history will repeat itself.



## Summary

As I attempt to lay out and explain, the many lines of truth that need to be understood and brought together line upon line, it was necessary to bring in these thoughts, in order for us to understand other aspects of the Binding off. However, in order for the future history to be fully completed, the Beast, at the end of the time of persecution, will have to receive a deadly wound. At this point I will not try to explain that, but rather leave us with the

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information presented, until an appropriate point in time presents itself, to introduce the future fulfillment of that deadly wound.

