

Leaves of Life

Tree of Life Ministries

Edition 14

The Structure Part 3

The Chasm



27th November 2018

“**A**s God has shown me the travels of the Advent people to the Holy City and the rich reward to be given those who wait the return of their Lord from the wedding, it may be my duty to give you a short sketch of what God has revealed to me. **The dear saints have many trials to pass through.** But our light afflictions, **which are but for a moment,** will work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory—**while we look not at the things which are seen, for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.** I have tried to bring back a good report and a few grapes from the heavenly Canaan, for which many would stone me, as the congregation bade stone Caleb and Joshua for their report. (Numbers 14:10.) **But I declare to you, my brethren and sisters in the Lord, it is a goodly land, and we are well able to go up and possess it.**

“While I was praying at the family altar, the Holy Ghost fell upon me, and I seemed to be rising higher and higher, far above the dark world. I turned to look for the Advent people in the world, but could not find them, when a voice said to me, ‘**Look again, and look a little higher.**’ At this I raised my eyes, **and saw a straight and narrow path,** cast up high above the world. **On this path the Advent people were traveling to the city,** which was at the farther end of the path. **They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the midnight cry.** **This light shone all along the path and gave light for their feet so that they might not stumble.** If they kept their eyes fixed on **Jesus, who was just before them, leading them to the city,** they were safe. **But soon some grew weary,** and said the city was a great way off, and they expected to have entered it before. Then Jesus would encourage them by raising His glorious right arm, and **from His arm came a light which waved over the Advent band,** and they shouted, ‘Alleluia!’ **Others rashly denied the light behind them** and said that it was not God that had led them out so far. **The light behind them went out, leaving their feet in perfect darkness,** and they stumbled and lost sight of the mark and of Jesus, **and fell off the path down into the dark and wicked world below.** Soon we [see Appendix.] heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus’ coming...

Tree of Life Ministries

Tree 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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...The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. **When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost**, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses' did when he came down from Mount Sinai." {*Early Writings, P. 13, 14*}

Introduction

In our last edition we took time to explain the order of events, from the time the Sunday Law is put into effect, to the "Midnight Cry," where the death decree is brought against the faithful, who refuse to bow down to their Idol Sabbath. We also looked at how Satan will seek to deceive God's people into renouncing their faith, through false prophets, who will manifest themselves, firstly at point B, as a fulfilment of Matthew 25:4, and thereafter at the Midnight Cry (Verse 6), where those who refuse the light, will be left in darkness.

In this edition, we will lay out certain aspects of the time period, from the Midnight Cry, to where the door will shut, according to Matthew 25:10. Let us begin with a vision that Sister White had, that is a prerequisite to her first vision, which we read about in our intro. This vision deals with the period from Midnight B to the Midnight Cry, whereas her first vision, deals with the period from the MC, to Midnight Point C, where the door will shut.

The Narrow Way

“While at Battle Creek, Michigan, in August, 1868, I dreamed of being with a large body of people. **A portion of this assembly started out prepared to journey.** We had heavily loaded wagons. As we journeyed, **the road seemed to ascend.** On one side of this road was a deep precipice; on the other was a high, smooth, white wall....

“As we journeyed on, the road grew narrower and steeper. In some places it seemed so very narrow that we concluded that **we could no longer travel with the loaded wagons.** We then loosed them from the horses, took a portion of the luggage from the wagons and placed it upon the horses, and journeyed on horseback.

“As we progressed, the path still continued to grow narrow. We were obliged to press close to the wall, to save ourselves from falling off the narrow road down the steep precipice. As we did this, the luggage on the horses pressed against the wall, and caused us to sway toward the precipice. We feared that we should fall, and be dashed in pieces on the rocks. **We then cut the luggage from the horses,** and it fell over the precipice. We continued on horseback, greatly fearing, **as we came to the narrower places in the road, that we should lose our balance and fall.** At such times, a hand seemed to take the bridle, and guide us over the perilous way.

“As the path grew more narrow, we decided that we could no longer go with safety on horseback, and **we left the horses and went on foot,** in single file, one following in the footsteps of another. **At this point small cords were let down from the top of the pure white wall; these we eagerly grasped,** to aid us in keeping our balance upon the path. As

we traveled, the cord moved along with us. **The path finally became so narrow that we concluded that we could travel more safely without our shoes;** so we slipped them from our feet, and went on some distance without them. **Soon it was decided that we could travel more safely without our stockings;** these were removed, and we journeyed on with bare feet.

“We then thought of those who had not accustomed themselves to privations and hardships. Where were such now? **They were not in the company. At every change, some were left behind,** and those only remained who had accustomed themselves to endure hardships. The privations of the way only made these more eager to press on to the end.

“Our danger of falling from the pathway increased. We pressed close to the white wall, yet could not place our feet fully upon the path; for it was too narrow. **We then suspended nearly our whole weight upon the cords,** exclaiming: **“We have hold from above! We have hold from above!”** The same words were uttered by all the company in the narrow pathway.

“As we heard the sounds of mirth and revelry that seemed to come from the abyss below, we shuddered. We heard the profane oath, the vulgar jest, and low, vile songs. We heard the war song and the dance song. We heard instrumental music, and loud laughter, mingled with cursing and cries of anguish and bitter wailing, and were more anxious than ever to keep upon the narrow, difficult pathway. **Much of the time we were compelled to suspend our whole weight upon the cords, which increased in size as we progressed.**

“I noticed that the beautiful white wall was stained with blood. It caused a feeling of regret to see the wall thus stained. This feeling, however, lasted but for a moment, as I soon thought that it was all as it should be. Those who are following after will know that others have passed the narrow, difficult way before them, and will conclude that **if others were able to pursue their onward course, they can do the same.** And as the blood shall be pressed from their aching feet, they will not faint with discouragement; but **seeing the blood upon the wall, they will know that others have endured the same pain.**

“At length we came to a large chasm, at which our path ended. There was nothing now to guide the feet, nothing upon which to rest them. **Our whole reliance must be upon the cords,** which had increased in size, until they were as large as our bodies. **Here we were for a time thrown into perplexity and distress.** We inquired in fearful whispers, ‘To what is the cord attached?’ My husband was just before me. **Large drops of sweat were falling from his brow,** the veins in his neck and temples were increased to double their usual size, and suppressed, agonizing groans came from his lips. The sweat was dropping from my face, and **I felt such anguish as I had never felt before. A fearful struggle was before us. Should we fail here, all the difficulties of our journey had been experienced for nought.**

“Before us, on the other side of the chasm, was a beautiful field of green grass, about six inches high. I could not see the sun, but bright soft beams of light, resembling fine gold and silver, were resting upon this field. **Nothing I had seen upon earth could compare in beauty and glory with this field.** But could we succeed in reaching it? was the anxious inquiry. Should the cord break, we must perish. **Again, in whispered anguish, the words were breathed, ‘What holds the cord?’**

“For a moment we hesitated to venture. Then we exclaimed: **‘Our only hope is to trust wholly to the cord.** It has been our dependence all the difficult way. **It will not fail us**

now. Still we were **hesitating and distressed**. The words were then spoken: 'God holds the cord. We need not fear.' These words were then repeated by those behind us, accompanied with: '**He will not fail us now. He has brought us thus far in safety.**'

"My husband then swung himself over the fearful abyss into the beautiful field beyond. I immediately followed. And oh, what a sense of relief and gratitude to God we felt! **I heard voices raised in triumphant praise to God.** I was happy, perfectly happy.

"I awoke, and found that from the anxiety I had experienced in passing over the difficult route, every nerve in my body seemed to be in a tremor. **This dream needs no comment. It made such an impression upon my mind that probably every item in it will be vivid before me while my memory shall continue.**" {*Christian Experience and Teachings, P. 179-184*}

In the aforementioned vision, I want to try and make a parallel to the points we discussed in Edition 13. In that edition, we looked at the following bible verse: "If any *man* come to me, and hate not his **father**, and **mother**, and **wife**, and **children**, and **brethren**, and **sisters**, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26). This verse, as we saw, represented the two tests that Job had to endure. The first in regards to all his worldly cares and possessions, the second was the final part of the test, to see if he was prepared to forfeit his life for his faith. We, as Christians, must likewise pass through the same two tests in order to be like Christ. There are seven things mentioned in this verse. The first six things, as we studied, are related to our worldly cares, the last one to our own lives. In the quote above, we notice, that at the beginning of the path, the people begin their journey with many goods, piled upon wagons and horses. As you read through the quote, if you count, there are 6 changes that take place, from the time where they first start at the beginning of the path that leads them up to this chasm. After the last change has taken place, God's people have no worldly goods left, all are gone, including the shoes on their feet. In line with Luke 14:26, we will now demonstrate that the point which they come to the chasm, is this last test where we, like Christ, will be tested to see whether we are prepared to follow Him to the cross and give our lives to save others.

Let us now look at some of the characteristics of this chasm, so that we can ascertain from God's word where we are to correctly place it in our structure.

1. It was at the end of the path: "At length we came to a large chasm, **at which our path ended.**"
2. It was a time of perplexity and distress: "Here we were for **a time** thrown into **perplexity and distress.**"
3. It was a similar experience to Christ in the garden of Gethsemane: "**Large drops of sweat were falling from his brow**, the veins in his neck and temples were increased to double their usual size, and suppressed, **agonizing groans came from his lips.**"
4. It is a time of fearful struggle: "**A fearful struggle was before us.**"
5. It represents a final test: "**Should we fail here, all the difficulties of our journey had been experienced for nought.**"
6. Crossing the chasm is a representation of the crossing into the promised land: "**Before us, on the other side of the chasm, was a beautiful field of green grass,**

about six inches high. I could not see the sun, but bright soft beams of light, resembling fine gold and silver, were resting upon this field. **Nothing I had seen upon earth could compare in beauty and glory with this field.**"

Taking these characteristics, I want to now bring line upon line together, so that we can observe a clear pattern, which will enable us to know, where we are to insert this vision upon our line. If we take the principle that Job's first test was from point B to the MC, where he was at this point confronted with death, then the vision of the narrow way, would also represent the same illustration, where the Chasm would mark the point where the death decree is brought upon God's people.

Let us begin with "**The time**" of "**perplexity and distress**" and see if we can confirm these thoughts. In our last edition, we went to the book of Daniel, to uphold the order of events from point B to C, so that we could explain the death decree. Let us go there again, this time to Daniel chapter 2 and we will see the same pattern.

Perplexity and Distress

“ **A**nd in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar **Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.** Then the king commanded to call **the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans,** for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream. **Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack,** O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation. The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: **if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.** But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, **ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour:** therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof. They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it. The king answered and said, **I know of certainty** that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me. **But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you:** for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof. The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore *there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that* asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. And *it is* a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh. **For this cause the king was angry and very furious,** and commanded to destroy all the wise *men* of Babylon. **And the decree went forth that the wise *men* should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.”** (Daniel 2:1-13)

In the above verses, Nebuchadnezzar, whilst asleep has a dream. In that dream, he is troubled and desires to know the dream. If we refer back to the last edition, Sister White marks the Sunday Law as being a point where trouble is coming upon the earth.

“...Now the fulfillment of that view is beginning to be seen. **“The commencement of that time of trouble,”** here mentioned does not refer to the time when the plagues shall begin to be poured out, but to a short period just before they are poured out, while Christ is in the sanctuary. At that time, while the work of salvation is closing, **trouble will be coming on the earth, and the nations will be angry,** yet held in check so as not to prevent the work of the third angel. At that time the “latter rain,” or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out.” {*Early Writings, P. 85, par. 3*}

This trouble is a parallel to the 21 Feb 1848, which Sister White called **“The shaking of the angry nations.”** {*Christian Experience and Teachings, P. 111, par. 1, 2*}. At that time, the King of France, in collusion with the Kings of Europe, conspired to place the Pope back on the throne, that he had once occupied, before he received his deadly wound. We illustrated this in Edition 12, showing that this typifies the Sunday Law at Midnight point B. Nebuchadnezzar, as we have already established, represents the USA, the nation that will make a Sunday law and cause all nations to follow her. Therefore, when we bring line upon line together, in line with Daniel 3 and Daniel 6, we can see that it is because of this Sunday law decree, that Nebuchadnezzar (The USA) has made, which causes all the trouble. Sister White already illustrated to us in the book of Education, that point B marks the time where the final overthrow of all earthly dominions will begin.

“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*}

We can therefore, understand, that the Golden Image that was set up in Daniel chapter 3, which was a symbol of the Sunday law crisis, is a parallel to the four kingdoms that make up the statue in Daniel chapter 2. In our last Edition, 13b, we established that

the kingdoms represented in Daniel 2 are a symbol of the Sunday Law crisis. Let us now bring in some other witnesses to help corroborate this.

The Four Insects

In the book of Joel, the prophet gives the warning to God's people that a nation, consisting of four insects, had come upon the land. When we understand the prophetic principles that all the prophets are speaking about the end of the world, we can be sure that those four insects have a relation to the four kingdoms of Daniel 2 and the four groups of spiritualists listed in that chapter: "**The magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans.**" Let us read now and compare what Joel says.

"Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? **Tell ye your children** of it, and **let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.** That which the **palmerworm** hath left hath the **locust** eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the **cankerworm** eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the **caterpillar** eaten. **Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl,** all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth. **For a nation is come up upon my land,** strong, and without number, whose teeth *are* the teeth **of a lion,** and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion. **He hath laid my vine waste,** and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast *it* away; the branches thereof are made white. **Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth** for the husband of her youth." (Joel 1:2-8)

We can see from what we read, that the message that he is giving is the "Midnight Cry" message, where the people are told to "Awake," marking the point where the death decree is brought forth upon God's people. A weeping, howling and lamenting begins to take place, due to the fact that those hearing the message, realise their lost condition and begin to repent in sackcloth.

"Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, **lie all night in sackcloth,** ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God. Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders *and* all the inhabitants of the land *into* the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD, **Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand,** and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come." (Joel 1:13-15)

A parallel to this thought can be seen in the book of Esther. Mordecai, when he realizes Haman (The USA) had made a decree to put all the Jews to death, he puts on sackcloth marking the bitter experience at the Midnight Cry: "When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and **put on sackcloth with ashes,** and went out into the midst of the city, **and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;**" (Esther 4:1)

The persons marked in the book of Joel, represent a group of people that will have been deceived, yet have honest hearts, who are permitted to hear the "Midnight Cry," the

last warning message given by the wise virgins of Matthew 25:6. This is represented by Mordecai, who faithfully gives the Cry to Esther. This crisis, brings all of God's people, those who were faithful and those who had been deceived, into this last bitter trial, in order for them to receive their final purification.

Therefore, although the nations and all those in apostasy in the Church, are those responsible for the trouble, prophecy declares that God's people are the ones who will be blamed for it (1 Kings 18:17), bringing them into this bitter trial. This test, takes place during the image of the Beast test, where they cry unto their God for deliverance.

Getting back to the book of Joel, when you look back in history, it can be shown that it was Assyria and Babylon that had devoured God's people, both of whom are a representation of the USA, as illustrated in Manuscript Releases, Volume 14, P. 91, para. 3. Both of these nations are represented as a Lion: "Israel is a scattered sheep; **the lions** have driven *him* away: **first the king of Assyria** hath devoured him; and last **this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon** hath broken his bones." (Jeremiah 50:17)

The nation that has devoured the land, as we can see, is the USA, making the Sunday law decree, with all other nations, coming into agreement with her. This leads up to the death decree, at the Midnight Cry, which we will prove is the chasm, in the vision of "The narrow way." This is what brings this period of trial and perplexity, as seen in the book of Joel: "How do the beasts groan! **the herds of cattle are perplexed**, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate." (Joel 1:18)

A few years back when we first began to understand the book of Joel, it was seen that the four insects, represent the "**Northern army**", a representation of Babylon: "**But I will remove far off from you the northern army...**" (Joel 2:20). This Northern army is a representation of the four abominations, found in the book of Ezekiel, chapter 8. These four abominations represent the process through which Satan leads people and nations to worship the Sun. Beginning with pride, followed by spiritualism, followed by the giving of a false message, that leads to the fourth and last abomination, where they turn their backs to the Lord and worship the sun. It can be shown that the four nations that represent the statue of Daniel 2, as listed in the book of Education P. 179, can be paralleled with these four abominations.

The Four Abominations-1. Pride

The first Abomination of Ezekiel chapter 8 that we came to understand in 2014 represents pride. This sin is the sin that will lead us to reject our Lord and savior. It is the root that needs to be uprooted from our hearts if we wish to have any chance of a place in the heavenly kingdom.

When we shall subdue our pride, when we shall pluck from the garden of the soul every fiber of the root of bitterness, our hearts will flow together as the heart of one.
{1888 Materials, P. 904, par. 5}

The Kingdom of Babylon is symbolized by a Lion, standing (proud and lifted up), with a man's heart given unto it. What does the Bible say about our hearts?

“The heart is deceitful **above all things**, and desperately wicked: **who can know it?**” (Jeremiah 17:9)

The human heart is evil, it is full of pride and self-sufficiency. Unless we take heed to these prophetic illustrations, that are designed to teach us about ourselves, so that we can understand our true condition, we will surely repeat these sins, which are the sins of our fathers, according to Joel 1:2.

If we look what it states in Noah Webster's Dictionary in regards to pride, it actually covers a wide range of things that we may not necessarily link to our pride.

“Having inordinate self-esteem; possessing a high or unreasonable conceit of one's own excellence, either of body or mind. A man may be proud of his person, of his talents, of his accomplishments or of his achievements. He may be proud of any thing to which he bears some relation. He may be proud of his country, his government, his equipage, or of whatever may, by association, gratify his esteem of himself. He may even be proud of his religion or of his church. He conceives that any thing excellent or valuable, in which he has a share, or to which he stands related, contributes to his own importance, **and this conception exalts his opinion of himself**. Proud is followed by of, before the object, supra.” {Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary, PROUD.2}

These kingdoms, represented in the Image of Daniel chapter 2, are a representation of the Image that Satan wishes to set up in our hearts. Christ uses the natural to teach us spiritual things, He allows us to see the external, so that we can understand the internal.

A Lion is a symbol of pride, it is an expression that is used in everyday life. Even the term for a group of Lions is termed “A pride of Lions.” Nebuchadnezzar demonstrates this very characteristic in the book of Daniel and brings upon himself divine judgment, in order for the Lord to humble his pride.

“The king spake, and said, **Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?** While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; **The kingdom is departed from thee**. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, **until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.**” (Daniel 4:30-32)

If we do not recognize this evil in our hearts it will lead directly to the next abomination, to lift up our voice above what the Lord has plainly revealed, putting our words in the place of a “Thus saith the Lord.”

Spiritualism

The second abomination in Ezekiel 8 represents God's people practicing witchcraft, or spiritualism as it is better known, where they are represented as worshipping all their idols in the dark, symbolising their evil hearts. Sister White explains to us that the idols of old are merely a representation of today's false doctrines.

"In rejecting the truth, men reject its Author. In trampling upon the law of God, they deny the authority of the Law-giver. **It is as easy to make an idol of false doctrines and theories as to fashion an idol of wood or stone.** By misrepresenting the attributes of God, Satan leads men to conceive of Him in a false character. With many, **a philosophical idol** is enthroned in the place of Jehovah; **while the living God, as He is revealed in His word, in Christ, and in the works of creation, is worshiped by but few.** Thousands deify nature while they deny the God of nature. **Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah.** The God of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists—the God of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions—is **little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia.**" *{The Great Controversy, P. 583, par. 1}*

It is a fact, that the Christian world has little idea, of the consequences relating to the entertaining of the false, against what is truth. The Bible states "**Thy word is truth!**" (John 17:17). It also states that Christ is the word: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**" (Joh 1:1). Therefore, when we as a people hold to false doctrines, we are in fact paying homage to the only false God, the Father of lies, our great adversary, Satan. It is a very sad but true fact, that this is how Satan is going to take the whole world, including most of God's professing people, captive.

"**Spiritualism is about to take the world captive.** There are many who think that Spiritualism is upheld through trickery and imposture; but this is far from the truth. Superhuman power is working in a variety of ways, and **few have any idea as to what will be the manifestations of Spiritualism in the future.** The foundation for the success of Spiritualism has been laid in the assertions **that have been made from the pulpits of our land.** The ministers have proclaimed, as Bible doctrines, falsehoods that have originated from the arch-deceiver... *{Signs of the Times, May 28, 1894, par. 3}*

The second Kingdom represented in the statue of Daniel 2 is Medo-Persia, which is also depicted in Daniel 7 as a Bear. In the mouth of this Bear are three ribs.

"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.**" (Daniel 7:5)

When we understand that this statue is none other than a depiction of the threefold union, that confederates itself against God, when it makes a Sunday Law and begins to

persecute God's people, it helps us also to understand the symbols, that are being portrayed here in this verse. A beast in Bible prophecy represents a nation that persecutes God's people. This nation is unique, being made up of two nations (Medes and Persians). A nation can also be likened unto a horn: "And **the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings**, which have received no **kingdom** as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast." (Revelation 17:12). Therefore, these two nations as we can see in this next verse, are likewise likened by two horns, representing two nations as one, symbolized by a Ram: "Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river **a ram which had two horns**: and the two horns were high; **but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.**" (Daniel 8:3). Just as we saw in Daniel 7, that the Bear lifted itself up on one side, we can likewise see that the horn that comes up last, is the one that is lifting itself up above the other. This Bear has three ribs in its mouth, the mouth being a representation of how a nation speaks. We can see this by the Beast in Revelation 13: "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." (Revelation 13:5). As we saw in our last edition, this Beast in Revelation 13 is none other than a parallel to the Statue in Daniel 2 and the Beasts in Daniel 7. The nation that has two horns at the end of the world is the United States, this is the nation that will speak and make the Sunday Law.

"I saw that **the two-horned beast had a dragon's mouth**, and that his power was in his head, and that **the decree would go out of his mouth.**" {*Spalding and Magan, P. 1, par. 4*}

It is also explained by Sister White how this nation speaks.

"The lamblike horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contradiction between the professions and the practice of the nation thus represented. **The 'speaking' of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities.** By such action it will give the lie to those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy. The prediction that it will **speak 'as a dragon'** and exercise 'all the power of the first beast' **plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution** that was manifested by the nations represented by the dragon and the leopardlike beast. And the statement that **the beast with two horns 'causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast'** indicates that the authority of this nation is to be exercised in enforcing some observance which shall be an act of homage to the papacy." {*The Great Controversy, P. 442, par. 1*}

Therefore, the USA here, as typified by these two nations of the Medes and Persians, is a representation of her speaking like a dragon when she makes a Sunday Law. The United States is likened unto a nation with two horns, due to the two parts of Republicanism (The state power) and Protestantism (It's main religion), that made up the country during its formation.

"**'And he had two horns like a lamb.'** The lamblike horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness, fitly representing the character of the United States when presented to the

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prophet as 'coming up' in 1798. Among the Christian exiles who first fled to America and sought an asylum from royal oppression and priestly intolerance were many who determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of civil and religious liberty. Their views found place in the Declaration of Independence, which sets forth the great truth that 'all men are created equal' and endowed with the inalienable right to 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.' And the Constitution guarantees to the people the right of self-government, providing that representatives elected by the popular vote shall enact and administer the laws. Freedom of religious faith was also granted, every man being permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. **Republicanism and Protestantism became the fundamental principles of the nation.** These principles are the secret of its power and prosperity. The oppressed and downtrodden throughout Christendom have turned to this land with interest and hope. Millions have sought its shores, and **the United States has risen to a place among the most powerful nations of the earth**" {*The Great Controversy, P. 441, par. 1*}

Therefore, when this nation speaks like a dragon, it is a demonstration of a change that has taken place, from a lamb, a symbol of its righteous principles as listed above in the aforementioned quote, to a dragon, a representation of its satanic character, when it persecutes God's people. Sister White explains that it is when the Church (Protestantism), comes together with the State (Republicanism), so that the Church uses the State to enforce its dogmas, it will speak like a dragon. In order to understand this, Sister White explains that we should go back into history to look at the Papacy in the past, the Image of the Beast is merely a repeat of that history.

"But what is the 'image to the beast'? and how is it to be formed? The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image *to* the beast. It is also called an image *of* the beast. Then to learn what the image is like and how it is to be formed we must study the characteristics of the beast itself—the papacy.

"When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and **in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power.** The result was the papacy, **a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends,** especially for the punishment of 'heresy.' **In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.**

"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.** An example of this is given in the long-continued persecution of dissenters by the Church of England. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, thousands of nonconformist ministers were forced to flee from their churches, and **many, both of pastors and people, were subjected to fine, imprisonment, torture, and martyrdom.**" {*The Great Controversy, P. 443, par. 1-3*}

In both depictions of this beast, in Daniel 7 and 8, it explains to us that one of the nations is rising up above the other. In Daniel 8 it explains further, that it is the nation that comes up last that is represented here: "Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; **but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.**" (Daniel 8:3). In 1798, until the present time, it is the state power that has ruled the USA, there has ever been a separation of both Church and State, given by God to ensure the freedoms that she so readily enjoys. However, these prophetic illustrations are marking for us the time foretold, where the church power would finally have control over the state, using the state to enforce its dogmas and in so doing, it will speak like a dragon.

Let us look now at this symbol of the three ribs in the mouth of the Bear. As we have seen, the mouth is a representation of the "speaking of a nation" through its legislative and judicial authorities. When we allow the Bible to interpret itself, the Bible teaches us that a rib represents a woman.

"And **the rib**, which the LORD God had taken from man, **made he a woman**, and brought her unto the man." (Genesis 2:22)

A woman in Bible prophecy is a representation of a church. Both God's church and Babylon are likened unto women.

"I have **likened** the daughter of Zion **to a comely and delicate woman.**" (Jeremiah 6:2)

"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)

All churches are known by their distinct doctrines. Therefore, a woman represents doctrine, either true or false.

We also know that this nation that makes this Sunday Law is a confederation of three nations, made up of the "Dragon," "Beast" and "False Prophet," found in the book of Revelation: "And I saw **three unclean spirits** like frogs **come out of the mouth** of the **dragon**, and **out of the mouth** of the **beast**, and **out of the mouth** of the **false prophet**. For they are **the spirits of devils**, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." (Revelation 16:13-14). Notice, that each of these entities has an unclean spirit coming out of its mouth. Christ teaches us that the Holy Spirit is received through His word.

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**" (John 6:63)

We can therefore, see the contrast, between Christ's words, which are received through the Holy Spirit and the words of this Beast, which represent a combination of the doctrines (Three ribs/women) of these three false entities, which are Catholicism,

Spiritualism and Apostate Protestantism. They may have a different name and different guise, but in reality they all bare the same spirit of Satan. Therefore, this Bear speaking, is a representation of the USA, which is the force behind this threefold union, that will speak the same proud and blasphemous things as did the Papacy of old. This will happen when it lifts itself up above God, represented by the Lion standing upon its feet, where it (The Bear) will put its word above God's word and open the door for Satan, to exercise his power and deceive the whole Earth to worship him.

"Satan has long been preparing for his final effort to deceive the world. The foundation of his work was laid by the assurance given to Eve in Eden: "Ye shall not surely die." "In the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." [Genesis 3:4, 5](#). **Little by little he has prepared the way for his masterpiece of deception in the development of spiritualism.** He has not yet reached the full accomplishment of his designs; **but it will be reached in the last remnant of time.** Says the prophet: **"I saw three unclean spirits like frogs; ... they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."** [Revelation 16:13, 14](#). **Except those who are kept by the power of God, through faith in His word, the whole world will be swept into the ranks of this delusion.** The people are fast being lulled to a fatal security, to be awakened only by the outpouring of the wrath of God. GC 561.2

When this Bear arises, it is commanded to "Devour much flesh." As we read in the book of Joel, the four insects, that represent this nation that will persecute God's people, are symbolized as eating up the fruit trees.

"That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust **eaten**; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm **eaten**; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar **eaten**." (Joel 1:4)

The word eating is the same word "To devour", as found in the book of Daniel. Therefore, we can see that the work of these insects is the same work as this Bear, which through spiritualism will ensnare many of God's people. If ensnared by this, it will without doubt lead the one deceived, to prophesy falsely.

A False Message

As we have seen in the first two illustrations, this satanic union, led by the United States, will lift itself up against God and speak proud and swelling words, putting in place a Sunday Law. This will inevitably bring persecution against those who refuse to obey it. Let us look now at the third abomination, which we have come to understand represents a false message.

"Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, **there sat women weeping for Tammuz.**" (Ezekiel 8:14)

Women, as we have established, represent churches. In the above illustration there are women weeping, a symbol for mourning, in this case for a false God. This obviously represents a counterfeit of the true. God's people are weeping between the porch and the altar, seeking after the true God, to be delivered by the receiving of the latter rain. This experience is obtained through the exercising of faith, by doing the work the Lord sets before them. God's people exercise their faith by the giving of a message, through which, it brings them into this great humiliating trial, a test to see if they really believe in God's promise to deliver. The counterfeit of that is this false humility, accompanied by a false message of deliverance from their trial. We can see this when Satan came to Christ in the wilderness as an Angel of light, he had on the exterior of a true Angel from heaven, but his message that Christ's trial was over, was merely a temptation to deceive Him from going to the cross. Hence the false prophets who come in sheep's clothing, they have a fair exterior, but their words betray them. Hananiah, a false prophet, did this very thing.

"And Hananiah spake in the presence of all the people, saying, **Thus saith the LORD; Even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all nations within the space of two full years.** And the prophet Jeremiah went his way. Then the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the prophet, after that Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke from off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, saying, **Go and tell Hananiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Thou hast broken the yokes of wood; but thou shalt make for them yokes of iron.** For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; I have put a yoke of iron upon the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him: and I have given him the beasts of the field also. Then said the prophet Jeremiah unto Hananiah the prophet, **Hear now, Hananiah; The LORD hath not sent thee; but thou makest this people to trust in a lie.** Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will cast thee from off the face of the earth: **this year thou shalt die, because thou hast taught rebellion against the LORD. So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month."** (Jeremiah 28:11-17)

Peter did likewise when he tried to tempt Christ from going to the cross: "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that **he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things** of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and **be killed, and be raised again the third day.** Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, **Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.** But he turned, and said unto Peter, **Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me:** for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but **those that be of men.**" (Mat 16:21-23). Just as Christ said to Satan, to get behind him, when he thought to tempt Him, He utters the same words of rebuke to Peter when he did likewise, calling him Satan.

This false message can be illustrated by the Kingdom of Greece, the third kingdom, which we can understand from the Bible, was famous for its human philosophy. Just like Peter, Greece was famous for the thoughts of men and not God.

"Now while Paul waited for them **at Athens**, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw **the city wholly given to idolatry.**" (Acts 17:16)

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“Then certain **philosophers** of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, **He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.**” (Acts 17:18)

"Beware lest any man **spoil you through philosophy** and vain deceit, after the **tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world**, and not after Christ." (Collosians 2:8)

The symbol of Greece is also a symbol for the Gentiles, which is a symbol for the whole world.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; **to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**” (Romans 1:16)

“Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of **the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;**” (Romans 2:9)

In the next quote, philosophy is paralleled with pantheism and spiritualism. In essence they are all the same thing, they are the means that Satan will use to destroy faith in God’s word and be represented in the Omega, or last apostasy, which is based upon human theories and traditions, rather than the word of God.

“The warnings of the word of God regarding the perils surrounding the Christian church **belong to us today**. As in the days of the apostles **men tried by tradition and philosophy to destroy faith in the Scriptures, so today**, by the pleasing sentiments of **higher criticism, evolution, spiritualism, theosophy, and pantheism**, the enemy of righteousness is seeking to lead souls into **forbidden paths**. To many the Bible is as **a lamp without oil**, because they have turned their minds into channels of speculative belief that bring misunderstanding and confusion. **The work of higher criticism, in dissecting, conjecturing, reconstructing, is destroying faith in the Bible as a divine revelation**. It is robbing God's word of power to control, uplift, and inspire human lives. **By spiritualism**, multitudes are taught to believe that desire is the highest law, that license is liberty, and that man is accountable only to himself.” {*Acts of the Apostles, P. 474, par. 1*}

“By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. **When Protestantism** shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of **the Roman power**, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands **with spiritualism**, when, **under the influence of this threefold union**, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution **as a Protestant and republican government**, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, **then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.**” {*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, P. 451, par. 1*}

As we will see, the marvelous working of Satan is when he is allowed to manifest his power, bringing fire down from heaven, which is a counterfeit to the power of the Latter Rain that was given on the day of Pentecost.

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. **And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire**, and it sat upon each of them. **And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4)

This power will claim to have the power from God, as will the false prophets internally. It will be a real test to see if we really believe God’s word over and above our senses.

“Many who refuse the message which the Lord sends them are seeking to find pegs on which to hang doubts, to find some excuse for rejecting the light of heaven. In the face of clear evidence they say, as did the Jews, ‘**Show us a miracle**, and we will believe. If these messengers have the truth, why do they not heal the sick?’ ...

“Could their eyes be opened, they would see evil angels exulting around them and triumphing in their power to deceive them. **The day is just before us when Satan will answer the demand of these doubters and present numerous miracles to confirm the faith of all those who are seeking this kind of evidence.** How terrible will be the situation of those who close their eyes to the light of truth and ask for miracles **to establish them in deception!**—[Letter 4, 1889](#).” {*Evangelism, P. 594, par. 1, 2*}

If we go to Revelation 13, we can see these things being illustrated in their order, from the time it rises up with pride to speak as a Dragon, doing great miracles, in order to deceive many.

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and **he spake as a dragon**. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, **and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein** to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. **And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men**, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth **by the means of those miracles** which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live." (Revelation 13:11-14)

Bowing Down To The Sun

The fourth and last abomination is marked by the 25 men bowing down to the sun.

“And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, **were about five and**

twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.” (Ezekiel 8:16)

The fourth Kingdom in the statue is Rome, consisting of both phases of Pagan and Papal, representing a combination of church and state. I want show now that this fourth Kingdom is marking the point where the “Man of Sin” is revealed, according to God’s word.

“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. **Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;” (2Th 2:1-3)**

It states in the SOP that the foolish virgins will be revealed at Midnight, when they come face to face with death.

It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, “**Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,**” and **the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers**, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. **So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God.** It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. **The great final test** comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied. COL 412.1

Remember, when we read the book of Joel, the message came to them commanding them to “**Awake**”, and how it brought them into this time of “**Distress**”, informing them of this “**Northern Kingdom**”, represented by the four insects, which are a symbol of these four abominations.

“**Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth. For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion. He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white. Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth.**” (Joel 1:5-8)

Therefore, when the command comes to “**Awake**”, it is marking the time where God’s people are faced with their final test, where they will come face to face with death. All without oil in their lamps will demonstrate that they are in fact foolish virgins and fall away like Judas.

“**In the parable of the virgins, five were found wise, and five foolish.** Can it be possible that half of us will be found without the oil of grace in our lamps? Shall we come

to the marriage feast too late? We have slept too long; shall we sleep on, and be lost at last? Are there those here who have been sinning and repenting, sinning and repenting, and will they continue to do so till Christ shall come? May God help us that we may be truly united to Christ, the living vine, and bear fruit to the glory of God! Many feel rich, and regard themselves as in need of nothing; but may such confess their sins, and let the Spirit of God into their hearts. O, **let us fear to go on in our evil, unrepenting state, lest we become like Judas, and finally betray our blessed Lord!**" {*Review and Herald, April 21, 1891, par. 8*}

We can link both the revelation of character by Judas to the Papacy at the same point in time through the term "Son of perdition", whilst this is a term given to both the Pope and to Judas.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come **a falling away first**, and that man of sin be revealed, **the son of perdition;**" (2Thessalonians 2:3)

"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and **none of them is lost, but the son of perdition;** that the scripture might be fulfilled." (John 17:12)

We can see this in the illustration when Judas delivered up Christ, representing those from God's Church, who will unite with the apostate religions and the civil powers, to deliver up God's people.

"I saw the **nominal church and nominal Adventists, like Judas**, would betray us to the Catholics to obtain their influence to come against the truth. The saints then will be an obscure people, little known to the Catholics; but the churches and nominal 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.**" {*Spalding and Magan, P. 1, par. 5*}

"But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, **delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.** And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. And **ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.** And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls." (Luke 21:12-19)

Sister White brings all this very nicely together where she shows how the papacy will reveal itself by giving the command to put God's people to death, in the next paragraph to the one above.

“Then the Catholics bid the Protestants 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 to destroy the saints...” {*Spalding and Magan, P. 2, par .1*}

The paragraph above is in agreement with Revelation 13, which we have already shown, is a demonstration of the four abominations unfolding in their order. Let us look and see how the next verse in Revelation 13 fulfils this, when the Papacy gives its power to the “Image of the Beast”, as written above.

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

Another witness to this was Herodias (The Papacy) who deceives Herod, through Salome (The Protestants), her daughter, to give her his head. It was not until she did this that she revealed her true intentions.

“The king was dazed with wine. Passion held sway, and reason was dethroned. He saw only the hall of pleasure, with its reveling guests, the banquet table, the sparkling wine and the flashing lights, and the young girl dancing before him. In the recklessness of the moment, **he desired to make some display that would exalt him before the great men of his realm. With an oath he promised to give the daughter of Herodias whatever she might ask,** even to the half of his kingdom.

“Salome hastened to her mother, to know what she should ask. The answer was ready,—**the head of John the Baptist. Salome knew not of the thirst for revenge in her mother's heart,** and she shrank from presenting the request; but the determination of Herodias prevailed. The girl returned with the terrible petition, ‘I will that thou forthwith give me in a charger the head of John the Baptist.’ [Mark 6:25](#), R. V.

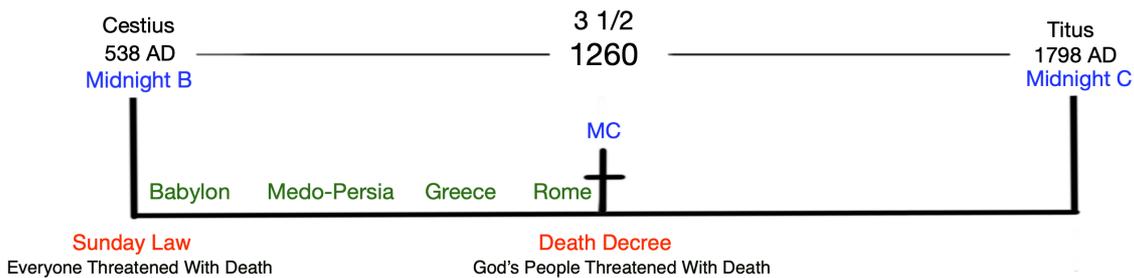
“Herod was astonished and confounded. The riotous mirth ceased, and an ominous silence settled down upon the scene of revelry. **The king was horror-stricken at the thought of taking the life of John.** Yet his word was pledged, and he was unwilling to appear fickle or rash...” {*The Desire of Ages, P. 221, par. 3-5*}

“And let it be remembered, it is the boast of Rome that she never changes. The principles of Gregory VII and Innocent III are still the principles of the Roman Catholic Church. And had she but the power, she would put them in practice with as much vigor now as in past centuries. **Protestants little know what they are doing when they propose to accept the aid of Rome in the work of Sunday exaltation.** While they are bent upon the accomplishment of their purpose, Rome is aiming to re-establish her power, to recover her

lost supremacy. Let the principle once be established in the United States that the church may employ or control the power of the state; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws; in short, that the authority of church and state is to dominate the conscience, and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured.

“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...**” {*Great Controversy, P. 581, par. 1, 2*}

Let us now place this upon our line so that we can have a clear picture in our minds.



In the above diagram, I am mainly trying to emphasize the thought, that although the “Three fold union” will come together at Midnight point B, it will not be truly manifested, until the Papacy makes a death decree and demonstrates to the whole world, that she has not changed.

"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, **or the leopard his spots?** then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." (Jeremiah 13:23)

The Leopard like Beast that never changes will demonstrate to the whole world who she really is, when these apostate powers join in union with her, then her deception will be complete and her wound healed.

“According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and **their heart was exalted**; therefore have they forgotten me. Therefore I will be unto them **as a lion: as a leopard** by the way will I observe them: I will meet them **as a bear** that is bereaved of her whelps, and will rend the caul of their heart, and **there will I devour them** like a lion: **the wild beast** shall tear them. O Israel, **thou hast destroyed thyself**; but in me is thine help.” (Hosea 13:6-9)

Let us now give several witnesses to show that the “Midnight Cry” is the point where God’s people come to the “**Chasm**”, where God’s people will meet with the “**Time**” of “**Perplexity and distress**” that we read about in the vision of “**The narrow way**”.

“At length we came to **a large chasm**, at which our path ended. There was nothing now to guide the feet, nothing upon which to rest them. **Our whole reliance must be upon the cords**, which had increased in size, until they were as large as our bodies. **Here we**

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were for **a time** thrown into **perplexity and distress**. We inquired in fearful whispers, "To what is the cord attached?" My husband was just before me. Large drops of sweat were falling from his brow, the veins in his neck and temples were increased to double their usual size, and suppressed, agonizing groans came from his lips. The sweat was dropping from my face, and I felt such anguish as I had never felt before. A fearful struggle was before us. **Should we fail here, all the difficulties of our journey had been experienced for nought.**" {*Christian Experience and Teachings, P. 183, par. 1*}

The cords that God's people are to put their whole weight upon, represents faith, which according to Christ's Object Lessons 412, is the test for God's people, as to whether or not they believe the promises or not.

"It is our privilege to pray with the sick, **to help them to grasp the cord of faith.**" {*Gospel Workers, P. 213, par. 2*}

It is through the belief of these promises that will bring us deliverance.

"Whereby are given unto us **exceeding great and precious promises**: that **by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (2Peter 1:4)

From this understanding above, we can understand that Christ's righteousness is obtained by faith in God's promises, under "**A time**" of test and trial. In the book of Daniel chapter 2, it marks this very time.

"For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and **commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.** Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. **Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time**, and that he would shew the king the interpretation." (Daniel 2:12-16)

As we see above, when delivered up before the King, Daniel asked for time, which brought Daniel and his colleagues into a time of contrition of heart and earnest prayer.

"To this request the monarch acceded. "Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions." Together they sought for wisdom from the Source of light and knowledge. **Their faith was strong** in the consciousness that God had placed them where they were, that they were doing His work and meeting the demands of duty. **In times of perplexity** and danger they had always turned to Him for guidance and protection, and He had proved an ever-present help. **Now with contrition of heart they submitted themselves anew to the Judge of the earth, pleading that He would grant them deliverance in this their time of special need.** And

they did not plead in vain. The God whom they had honored, now honored them. The Spirit of the Lord rested upon them, and to Daniel, “in a night vision,” was revealed the king's dream and its meaning.” {*Prophets and Kings*, P. 493, par. 3}

Let us look at a second witness for this to establish it according to God's word. Martin Luther was likewise called before the Emperor, where he was facing charges, that would surely sentence him to death, if found guilty.

“A new emperor, Charles V, had ascended the throne of Germany, and the emissaries of Rome hastened to present their congratulations and induce the monarch to employ his power against the Reformation. On the other hand, the elector of Saxony, to whom Charles was in great degree indebted for his crown, entreated him to take no step against Luther until he should have granted him a hearing. The emperor was thus placed in a position of great perplexity and embarrassment. **The papists would be satisfied with nothing short of an imperial edict sentencing Luther to death.** The elector had declared firmly that “neither his imperial majesty nor any other person had shown that Luther's writings had been refuted;” **therefore he requested ‘that Dr. Luther should be furnished with a safe-conduct, so that he might appear before a tribunal of learned, pious, and impartial judges.’**”—D'Aubigne, b. 6, ch. 11. {*The Great Controversy*, P. 145, par. 1}

When Luther set off on his journey, he knew that at the end of the path, just like the vision of the “**Narrow way**”, a death sentence awaited him. However, strong in faith he went forward, as must we.

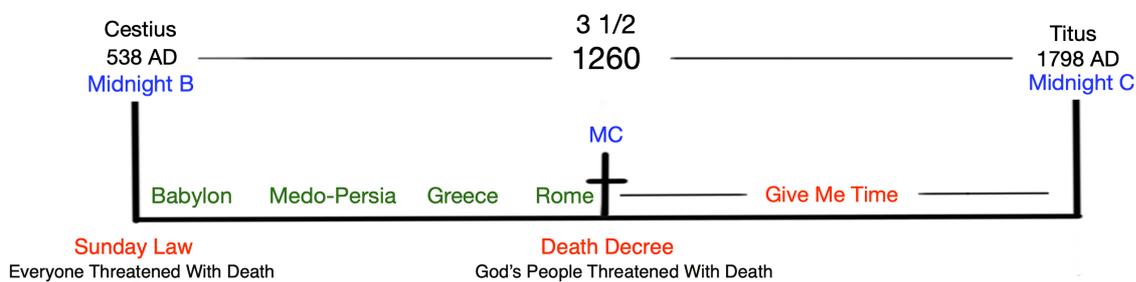
“The friends of Luther were **terrified and distressed**. Knowing the prejudice and enmity against him, they feared that even his safe-conduct would not be respected, and they entreated him not to imperil his life. He replied: “**The papists do not desire my coming to Worms, but my condemnation and my death.** It matters not. Pray not for me, but for the word of God.... **Christ will give me His Spirit to overcome these ministers of error.** I despise them during my life; I shall triumph over them by my death. They are busy at Worms about compelling me to retract; and this shall be my retraction: **I said formerly that the pope was Christ's vicar; now I assert that he is our Lord's adversary, and the devil's apostle.**”—*Ibid.*, b. 7, ch. 6. {*The Great Controversy*, P. 150, par. 5}

“Luther was conducted to a position directly in front of the emperor's throne. A deep silence fell upon the crowded assembly. Then an imperial officer arose and, pointing to a collection of Luther's writings, demanded that the Reformer answer two questions—**whether he acknowledged them as his, and whether he proposed to retract the opinions which he had therein advanced.** The titles of the books having been read, Luther replied that as to the first question, he acknowledged the books to be his. ‘As to the second,’ he said, ‘seeing that it is a question which concerns faith and the salvation of souls, and in which the word of God, the greatest and most precious treasure either in heaven or earth, is involved, **I should act imprudently were I to reply without reflection.** I might affirm less than the circumstance demands, or more than truth requires, **and so sin against this saying of Christ:** ‘Whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My

Father which is in heaven.’ [Matthew 10:33.] **For this reason I entreat your imperial majesty, with all humility, to allow me time**, that I may answer without offending against the word of God.’—D'Aubigne, b. 7, ch. 8.

“In making this request, Luther moved wisely. His course convinced the assembly that he did not act from passion or impulse. Such calmness and self-command, unexpected in one who had shown himself bold and uncompromising, added to his power, **and enabled him afterward to answer with a prudence, decision, wisdom, and dignity that surprised and disappointed his adversaries, and rebuked their insolence and pride.”** {The Great Controversy, P. 155, 156}

Let us now put this onto our diagram, so that we can have a better comprehension of what awaits us.



Summary

As we can see, the time that is soon to come upon us, will be a trial of trials for everyone. Only by a correct understanding of the prophetic narrative, will we be kept from the delusions that Satan has prepared for us. Through an understanding that the external, teaches us about and points to the internal, can we see, that the Statue, is merely a representation of hearts and intents of the world. Thus, illustrating to us, what those people, who do not have the oil of Christ in their lamps, will do to their own brethren, when the Lord brings this test, to allow our hearts to be manifested before the whole Universe. Everything that was in darkness, will be laid bare for all to see, “The Man of Sin”, will truly be revealed.

In our next edition, we will discuss this period of time and demonstrate how it is a representation of the Judgment of the living. We will demonstrate that this is where the Father will come to see whether or not we have used our time wisely to obtain that robe of His righteousness, or whether we have squandered His time foolishly, following man’s opinions, instead of the voice of Christ.



Health Section

Eating Between Meals

“If all would eat at regular periods, **not tasting anything between meals**, they would be ready for their meals and would find a pleasure in eating that would repay them for their effort.²⁸[Counsels on Diet and Foods, 179.](#)” {*Child Guidance*, P. 387, par. 5}

“Many turn from light and knowledge, and sacrifice principle to taste. **They eat when the system needs no food, and at irregular intervals, because they have no moral stamina to resist inclination.** As the result, the abused stomach rebels, and suffering follows. Regularity in eating is very important for health of body and serenity of mind. **Never should a morsel of food pass the lips between meals.**” {*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, P.50, par. 1}

“**Our preachers are not particular enough in regard to their habits of eating.** They partake of too large quantities of food, and of too great a variety at one meal. **Some are reformers only in name.** They have no rules by which to regulate their diet, **but indulge in eating fruit or nuts between their meals**, and thus impose too heavy burdens upon the digestive organs. **Some eat three meals a day, when two would be more conducive to physical and spiritual health.** If the laws which God has made to govern the physical system are violated, the penalty must surely follow.” {*Counsels on Diet and Health*, P. 140, par. 4}

The stomach must have its regular periods for labor and rest; **hence eating irregularly and between meals, is a most pernicious violation of the laws of health.** With regular habits, and proper food, the stomach will gradually recover. {*Counsels on Diet and Health*, P. 175, par. 2}

“**No eating should be allowed between our meals.** I have eaten two meals each day for the last twenty-five years.” {*Selected Messages, Book 3*, P. 294, par. 3}

Miscellaneous Reforms

A Ministers Department

“The work in which we are engaged is a responsible and exalted work. Those who minister in word and doctrine should themselves be patterns of good works. They should be examples in holiness, cleanliness, and order. **The appearance of the servant of God, out of the pulpit and in, should be that of a living preacher.** He can accomplish far more by his godly example than by merely preaching in the desk, while his influence out of the desk is not worthy of imitation. Those who labor in this cause are bearing to the world the most elevated truth that was ever committed to mortals.” {*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1, P. 446, par. 1*}

“Carefulness in dress is an important item. There has been a lack here with ministers who believe present truth. **The dress of some has been even untidy.** Not only has there been a lack of taste and order in arranging the dress in a becoming manner upon the person, and in having the color suitable and becoming for a minister of Christ, **but the apparel of some has been even slovenly.** Some ministers wear a vest of a light color, while their pants are dark, or a dark vest and light pants, with no taste or orderly arrangement of the dress upon the person when they come before the people. **These things are preaching to the people.** The minister gives them an example of order, and sets before them the propriety of neatness and taste in their apparel, or he gives them lessons in slackness and lack of taste which they will be in danger of following.

“Black or dark material is more becoming to a minister in the desk and will make a better impression upon the people than would be made by a combination of two or three different colors in his apparel.” {*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2, P. 610, par. 1, 2*}

“From the light that has been given me, there has been a carelessness in this respect. I might speak of it as Paul presents it. **It is carried out in will-worship and neglecting of the body.** But this voluntary humility, this will-worship and neglecting of the body, is not the humility that savors of heaven. **That humility will be particular to have the person and actions and apparel of all who preach the holy truth of God,** right and perfectly proper, so that every item connected with us will recommend our holy religion. **The very dress will be a recommendation of the truth to unbelievers. It will be a sermon in itself....**

“A minister who is negligent in his apparel often wounds those of good taste and refined sensibilities. Those who are faulty in this respect should correct their errors and be more circumspect. The loss of some souls at last will be traced to the untidiness of the minister. The first appearance affected the people unfavorably because they could not in any way link his appearance with the truths he presented. His dress was against him; and **the impression given was that the people whom he represented were a careless set who cared nothing about their dress,** and his hearers did not want anything to do with such a class of people....” {*Selected Messages, Book 3, P. 251, par. 1, 2*}

“The minister should be free from every unnecessary temporal perplexity, that he may give himself wholly to his sacred calling. He should be much in prayer, and should bring himself under discipline to God, that his life may reveal the fruits of true self-control. His language should be correct; no slang phrases, no cheap utterances, should fall from his lips. **His dress should be in harmony with the character of the work he is doing. Let ministers and teachers strive to reach the standard set forth in the Scriptures.** Let them not neglect the little things, which are often looked upon as of no moment. **Neglect of little things often leads to neglect of larger responsibilities.**” {*Gospel Workers*, P. 145. par. 1}

“**God expects His ministers, in their manners and in their dress, to give a fitting representation of the principles of truth and the sacredness of their office.** They are to set an example that will help men and women to reach a high standard.” {*Gospel Workers*, P. 174, par. 2}

May we all seek the Lord for His grace to obey His every requirement and remember that our God is a Holy God.

