

* *At the time when the Papacy, robbed of its strength, was forced to desist from persecution, John beheld a **new power** coming up to echo the dragon's voice, and carry forward the same cruel and blasphemous work. **This power, the last that is to wage war against the church and the law of God,** is represented by a beast with lamblike horns. The beasts preceding it had risen from the sea; but this came up out of the earth, representing the peaceful rise of the nation which it symbolized--the United States. {ST, February 8, 1910 par. 5} "1798"*

* "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. **Then I saw the Mother of Harlots; that the mother was not the daughters, but separate and distinct from them. She has had her day, and it is past, and her daughters, the Protestant sects, were the next to come on the stage and act out the same mind that the mother had when she persecuted the saints.** I saw that as the mother has been **declining** in power, the daughters had been **growing**, and soon **they will exercise** the power once exercised by the mother." {SpM 1.4}

* But the stern tracings of the prophetic pencil reveal a change in this peaceful scene. The beast with lamb-like horns speaks with the voice of a dragon, and "exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him." The spirit of persecution manifested by **paganism and the papacy** is again to be revealed. Prophecy declares that this power will say "to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast." [Revelation 13:14.] The **image** is made to the **first or leopard-like beast**, which is the one brought to view in the **third** angel's message. By this first beast is represented the Roman Church, an ecclesiastical body clothed with civil power, having authority to punish all dissenters. The image to the beast represents **another religious body clothed with similar power.** The formation of this image is the work of that beast whose peaceful rise and mild professions render it so striking a symbol of the United States. **Here** is to be found an **image** of the papacy. **When** the churches of our land, uniting upon such points of faith as are held by them in common, shall influence the State to enforce their decrees and sustain their institutions, **then will Protestant America have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy. Then the true church will be assailed by persecution,** as were God's ancient people. Almost every century furnishes examples of what bigotry and malice can do under a plea of serving God by protecting the rights of Church and State. **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.** In the seventeenth century thousands of non-conformist ministers suffered under the rule of the Church of England. **Persecution always follows religious favoritism on the part of secular governments.** {4SP 277.2}{4Sp 503.3}{GC 445.1}{GC88 445.1}{D&R 546.3; 518.2-519.3}

* The vision that Christ presented to John, presenting the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, is to be definitely proclaimed to all nations, people, and tongues. **The churches, represented by Babylon, are represented as having fallen from their spiritual state to become a persecuting power against those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.** To John this persecuting power is represented as having horns like a lamb, but as speaking like a dragon. . . . {TM 117.4}

* 10. **This beast** not only compels the earth and its inhabitants to worship the first beast, as above noticed, but **it causes them that dwell upon the earth to make an image** to the first beast. This can be done only by a union of church and state, or by so **subordinating the civil to the ecclesiastical power that the state will be compelled to enforce the tenets and requirements of the church. A religious amendment to the constitution of the united states would speedily insure this result.** {4Sp 503.3}

* The Protestant churches, having received doctrines that the Word of God condemns, **will bring these to the front and force them upon the consciences of the people, just as the papal authorities urged their dogmas upon the advocates of truth in Luther's time.** The same battle is again to be fought, and every soul will be called upon to decide upon which side of the controversy he or she will be found. {CTr 323.5}

"It is our individual duty to walk humbly with God. We are not to seek any strange, new message. We are not to think that the chosen ones of God who are trying to walk in the light compose Babylon. **The fallen denominational churches are Babylon. Babylon has been fostering poisonous doctrines, the wine of error. This wine of error is made up of false doctrines,** such as the natural immortality of the soul, the eternal torment of the wicked, the denial of the pre-existence of Christ prior to His birth in Bethlehem, and advocating and exalting the first day of the week above God's holy and sanctified day. These and kindred errors are presented to the world **by the various churches, and thus the Scriptures are fulfilled that say, 'For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.'** It is a wrath which is created by false doctrines, and when kings and presidents drink this wine of the wrath of her fornication, they are stirred with anger against those who will not come into harmony with the false and satanic heresies which exalt the false sabbath, and lead men to trample underfoot God's memorial. {TM 61.3} See also GC 586. and PP 124,

* *The so-called Christian world is to be the theater of great and decisive actions. Men in authority will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the example of the Papacy.* Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Every nation will be involved. Of this time John the Revelator declares: {1MR 296.5} MATTHEW 24:45-

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.* {GC 588.1} WHY? {4SP 425.1}

Questions: Who's under this influence? This Country. Then who USES these to influence this country? Protestants!

Rev. 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him *the false prophet that wrought miracles* before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. *These both* were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

WHY? Spiritualism provides miracles (see MS U. Smith. 137.2; 140.1,2; 144.1-146; ; GC 590.2) in a church destitute of the power of the Holy Spirit. And Papist's provide Help-Aid-Support, (see NSL A.T. Jones. 19.3), for it vindicates and justifies 1260 years of tyranny.

As the controversy extends into new fields, and the minds of the people are called to God's down-trodden law, Satan is astir. *The power attending the message only maddens those who oppose it. The clergy put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light, lest it should shine upon their flocks. By every means at their command they endeavor to suppress the discussion of these vital questions. The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and in this work, papists are solicited to come to the help of Protestants.* The movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided. *The law is invoked against commandment-keepers.* They are threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some are offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith. But their steadfast answer is, "Show us from the word of God our error,"--the same plea that was made by Luther under similar circumstances. Those who are arraigned before the courts make a strong vindication of the truth, and some who hear them are led to take their stand to keep all the commandments of God. Thus light is brought before thousands who otherwise would know nothing of these truths. {4SP 425.1}

Power and Exerciseth.

13:11 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.*

(Not "as" the first beast or "for" the "first beast," or "from" the first beast but "as a dragon!")

13:12 And *he exerciseth* (i.e. *uses*, exerts, performs all authority) *all the power* (i.e., *dominion*, authority, jurisdiction, *privilege*, *force*, *capacity*, *influence*) 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.

13:13 And *he doeth* great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

13:14 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.

13:15 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.

13:16 And *he causeth all*, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

Power. 1849. *ἐξουσία*, *ex-oo-see'-ah*; from 1832 (in the sense of ability); *privilege*, i.e., (subj.) *force*, *capacity*,

competency, freedom, or (obj.) mastery; (concr. magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token, of control), delegated influence:—**authority, jurisdiction**, liberty, power, right, strength.

Pow'ēr, n. 6. Command; the right of government or actual government; **dominion; rule; sway; authority**; as, the United States has power over the Phillipines.

Syn.—Faculty, capacity, efficacy, energy, capability, potentiality, force, might, ability, strength, susceptibility, influence, **dominion**, sway, command, government, agency, **authority, rule, jurisdiction**, effectiveness, caliber, cause.

Dan. 7:26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall **take away** his **dominion**, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

Exerciseth. 4160. *pōiēō, pay-eh'ō*, to make or do.

ex'ēr-cise, v.t.; exercised, *pt., pp.*; exercising; *ppr.* 1. To employ actively; to exert, to cause to act in any manner; as, to exercise the body or the hands; to exercise the mind or judgement.

2. **To use; to exert; to perform the duties of; as, to exercise authority or an office.**

IMAGE

1504. εἰκών **ēikōn**, *i-kone'*; from 1503: a likeness, i.e. (lit.) statue, profile, or (fig) representation, resemblance:—image.

1503. **ēikō**, *i'-ko*; appar. a prime verb [perh. akin to 1502 through the idea of faintness as a copy]; to resemble:—be like.

IMAGE, n. [L. imago.]

1. A representation or similitude of any person or thing, formed of a material substance; as an image wrought out of stone, wood or wax.

Whose is this image and superscription? Matthew 22:20.

2. A statue.

3. An idol; the representation of any person or thing, that is an object of worship. The second commandment forbids the worship of images.

4. The likeness of any thing on canvas; a picture; a resemblance painted.

5. **Any copy, representation or likeness.**

The child is the image of its mother.

6. **Semblance; show; appearance.**

The face of things a frightful image bears.

7. An idea; a representation of any thing to the mind; a conception; a picture drawn by fancy.

Can we conceive

Image of aught delightful, soft or great?

8. In rhetoric, a lively description of any thing in discourse, which presents a kind of picture to the mind.

9. In optics, the figure of any object, made by rays of light proceeding from the several points of it. Thus a mirror reflects the image of a person standing before it, as does water in a vessel or stream, when undisturbed.

IMAGE, v.t. To imagine; to copy by the imagination; to form a likeness in the mind by the fancy or recollection.

And image charms he must behold no more.

Rev. 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world **wondered** after the beast.

WONDER

2296. θαυμάζω **thaumanzō**, *thōu-mad'-zo*; from 2295; to wonder; by impl. to admire:—admire, have in admiration, marvel, wonder.

2295. **thauma**, *thōu'-mah*; appar. from a form of 2300; wonder (prop. concr.; but by impl. abstr.):—admiration.

2300 **thēaōmai**, *theh-ah'-om-ahēe*; a prol. form of a primary verb; to **look closely at**, i.e. (by impl.) perceive (lit. or fig.); by extens. to visit:—behold, look (upon), see. Comp. 3700.

wōn'dēr, *v.t.*, 1. To be curious about; to wish to know. 2. To surprise; to amaze.

1. desire or be curious to know something:

To Study or examine.

Rev. 17:6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, ***I wondered with great admiration.***

Did John obey the Papacy?