

"The second angel's message of Revelation 14 was first preached in the summer of 1844, and it then had a more direct application to the churches of the United States, where the warning of the judgment had been most widely proclaimed and most *generally rejected*, and where the declension in the churches had been most rapid. But the message of the second angel did not reach its complete fulfillment in 1844. *The churches then experienced a moral fall, in consequence of their refusal of the light of the advent message; but that fall was not complete. As they have continued to reject the special truths for this time they have fallen lower and lower.* Not yet, however, can it be said that "Babylon is fallen,... because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." She has not yet made all nations do this." {GC 389.2}

"The churches have become as described in the eighteenth chapter of Revelation" {7BC 979 Rev. 18:1-5.} also GC 389, 380-390.

"Notwithstanding the spiritual darkness and alienation from God that exist in the churches which constitute Babylon, the great body of Christ's true followers are still to be found in their communion. There are many of these who have never seen the special truths for this time. Not a few are dissatisfied with their present condition and are longing for clearer light. *They look in vain for the image of Christ in the churches with which they are connected.*" {GC 390.2}

"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,

Men act as though they had been given special liberty to cancel the decisions of God. *The higher critics put themselves in the place of God, and review the Word of God, revising or endorsing it. In this way, all nations are induced to drink the wine of the fornication of Babylon. These higher critics have fixed things to suit the popular heresies of these last days. If they cannot subvert and misapply the Word of God, if they cannot bend it to human practices, they break it. . . .* {UL 35.5}

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}

“And thunders and lightnings”—another allusion to the judgments of Egypt. (See Exodus 9:23.) The great city is divided into *three parts*; that is, *the three grand divisions of the false and apostate religions of the world (the great city), Paganism, Catholicism, and relapsed Protestantism*, seem to be set apart each to receive its appropriate doom. The cities of the nations fall; universal desolation spreads over the earth; every island flees away, and the mountains are not found; and great Babylon comes in remembrance before God. Read her judgments, as more fully described in chapter 18. {1897 UrS, DAR 653.4}

A Moral Fall.—The fall of Babylon here spoken of can not be literal destruction; for there are events to take place in Babylon after her fall which utterly forbid this idea; as, for instance, the people of God are there after her fall, and are called out in order that they may not receive of her plagues; and in these plagues is embraced her literal destruction. The fall is therefore a moral one; for the result of it is that Babylon becomes the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. These are terrible descriptions of apostasy, showing that, as a consequence of her fall, she piles up an accumulation of sins even to the heavens, and becomes subject to the judgments of God, which can no longer be delayed. {1897 UrS, DAR 663.3}

And since the fall here introduced is a moral one, it must apply to some branch of Babylon besides, or outside of, the pagan or papal divisions; for from the beginning of their history, paganism has been a false religion, and the papacy an apostate one. And further, as this fall is said to occur *but a short period before Babylon's final destruction*, certainly this side of the rise and predicted triumph of the papal church, this testimony cannot apply to any religious organizations but such as have sprung from that church. These started out on reform. They ran well for a season, and had the approbation of God; but fencing themselves about with creeds, they have failed to keep pace with the advancing light of prophetic truth, and hence have been left in a position where they will finally develop a character as evil and odious in the sight of God as that of the church from which they first withdrew as dissenters, or reformers. As the point before us is to many a very sensitive one, we will let members of these various denominations here speak for themselves. {1897 UrS, DAR 664.1}

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}

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}

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}

6. **The two-horned beast appears in two phases**,--with the gentleness of a lamb and the fierceness of the dragon. This has, **to some extent, already been shown, in the inconsistency** of sending forth to the world the doctrine of the *equality of all men in respect to natural rights,--the right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness*,--and upholding by law all the evils of american *slavery*. Also, by *professing to grant* the privilege **to all to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences**, and them *persecuting the baptists and quakers for following their conscientious convictions*. But this will be shown more fully in the future, *when congress* shall be called upon to make laws concerning religion. {4Sp 502.6}

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}

11. This exposition of the prophecy is confirmed by the message from the lord found in Rev. 14:9-12, ***Which is based altogether on the facts of Rev. 13:11-17***, And which ***condemns*** in the very strongest terms the action of this beast and the worship which it enforces; it also calls to keeping the commandments of god and the faith of jesus, and one of these commandments enforces the sabbath of the lord,--the seventh day. Therefore the contrast in the facts and in the message which refers to the facts, is between the sabbath of the lord and an opposing sabbath, namely, the sunday. {4Sp 504.1}

Charles Beecher, in a sermon in the year 1846, declared that the ministry of "the ***evangelical Protestant denominations***" is "not only formed all the way up under a tremendous pressure of merely human fear, but they live, and move, and breathe in a state of things radically corrupt, and appealing every hour to every baser element of their nature to hush up the truth, and bow the knee to the power of apostasy. Was not this the way things went with Rome? Are we not living her life over again? And what do we see just ahead? Another general council! A world's convention! ***Evangelical alliance***, and universal creed!"--Sermon on "The Bible a Sufficient Creed," delivered at Fort Wayne, Indiana, Feb. 22, 1846. When this shall be gained, then, in the effort to secure complete uniformity, it will be only a step to the resort to force. {GC 444.3}

When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result. {GC 445.1}

The beast with two horns "causeth [commands] all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Revelation 13:16, 17. The third angel's warning is: "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God." "The beast" mentioned in this message, whose worship is enforced by the two-horned beast, is the first, or leopardlike beast of Revelation 13--the papacy. ***The "image to the beast" represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas.*** The "mark of the beast" still remains to be defined. {GC 445.2}

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}

Marvelous in her shrewdness and cunning is the Romish Church. She can read what is to be. She bides her time, seeing that the *Protestant* churches are paying her homage in their acceptance of the false Sabbath, and *that they are preparing to employ the very means which she herself employed in by-gone days. Those who reject* the light of truth will yet seek the *aid* of this self-styled infallible power to exalt an institution that originated with her. How readily she will come to the help of Protestants in this work, it is not difficult to conjecture. Who understands better than popery how to deal with those who are disobedient to the church? {4SP 397.1}

The Christian world will learn what *Romanism* really is, when it is *too late to escape the snare*. She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. Throughout the land she is piling up her lofty and massive structures, in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. She is stealthily and unsuspectedly strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is soon to be given her. In the near future *we shall see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is. Whoever shall believe and obey the word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution.* {4SP 397.2}

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. {GC 581.1}

God's word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. She is piling up her lofty and massive structures in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. Stealthily and unsuspectedly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is. Whoever shall believe and obey the word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution. {GC 581.2}

It is no time now for God's people to be fixing their affections or laying up their treasure in the world. The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, *so the assumption of power on the part of our*

nation in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains. And now, instead of seeking expensive dwellings here, we should be preparing to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Instead of spending our means in self-gratification, we should be studying to economize. Every talent lent of God should be used to His glory in giving the warning to the world. God has a work for His colaborers to do in the cities. Our missions must be sustained; new missions must be opened. To carry forward this work successfully will require no small outlay. Houses of worship are needed, where the people may be invited to hear the truths for this time. For this very purpose, God has entrusted a capital to His stewards. Let not your property be tied up in worldly enterprises, so that this work shall be hindered. Get your means where you can handle it for the benefit of the cause of God. Send your treasures before you into heaven. {5T 464.3}