



Use the zoom feature to enlarge this Diagram. Then reduce again to read.

Please Note: The Line of Prophecy portrayed under the 7 Seals. We have the Pale Horse—Persecution under Catholicism ending in 1700 with and by the reformation. Since this time persecution has come from Protestants.

SHORTENED FOR THE ELECT'S SAKE.

Verse 22: "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." The papacy was clothed with civil power to punish heretics for 1260 years; and had not the period of tribulation of the elect in the providence of God been shortened, the martyrdom of the church would have continued to 1798, in which event, in all human probability, no flesh of the elect would have been saved. But the reformation

under Martin Luther, and those associated with this great reformer, modified this tribulation, and continued to restrain the rage and consume the power of the papacy until 1700, since which time, according to all church history, there has been no general persecution against the church. In this was fulfilled the words of the prophets: “The earth helped the woman.” Rev.12:16. “They shall be holpen with a little help.” Dan.11:34. We are brought in this prophetic discourse of our Lord, down into the eighteenth century, very near the present time. We should naturally expect, then, that the instructions and warnings of the next verse would be applicable to this generation.

We have before seen that our Lord speaks in this chapter of the long period of tribulation upon his followers, and we have also seen how those days of tribulation were shortened for the elect’s sake. “Immediately after the tribulation of those days, shall the sun be darkened,” &c. We refer the reader to the noted dark day of May 19, 1780, as the fulfillment of this declaration. He does not say *after those days*, but “after the *tribulation* of those days.” The *days* (1260 years, Dan.7:25) reached to 1798, eighteen years this side of the dark day in 1780. Mark 13:24, makes this point still plainer. “But *in* those days, *after* that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened.” That is, before the 1260 years closed, but after the tribulation or martyrdom of the saints ceased, the sun was darkened. Those who would point to the future, or to the past, prior to the eighteenth century, for the darkening of the sun here mentioned, will do well to read again Mark 13:24: “But in those days, after that tribulation, *Matthew Twenty-Four J White reprint pg. 15,16.*”

BY ELDER JAMES WHITE.

Sermon Seven.

THE JUDGEMENT.

114-116

That the pope was restored, or a new one chosen is admitted. But that he has power to depose kings and put the saints to death now, *is denied*. Before his *dominion was wrested from him*, he deposed kings at pleasure for centuries, and silenced heretics by the flame, the rack, the prison, and the sword. *This he cannot do now, nor has he been able to do it since 1798. The papacy is compelled to tolerate Protestantism.* Hear the pope himself on that subject. Here is his letter, dated Sept., 1840, at Rome:—

“ENCYCLICAL LETTER OF OUR MOST HOLY LORD GREGORY XVI., by

Divine Providence Pope, to all Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops, and Bishops.

“Venerable Brethren,—Health and the Apostolic Benediction. You well know, Venerable Brothers, how great are the calamities with which the Catholic church is beset on all sides in this most sorrowful age, and how pitifully she is afflicted. . . . Indeed, are we not (oh, how shameful!) compelled to see the most crafty enemies of the truth, ranging far and wide with impunity; not only attacking religion with ridicule, the church with contumely, and Catholics with insults and slander, but even entering into cities and towns, establishing schools of error and impiety, publishing in print the poison of their doctrines, skillfully concealed under the deceitful veil of the natural sciences and new discoveries, and even penetrating into the cottages of the poor, traveling through rural districts, and insinuating themselves into familiar acquaintance with the lowest of the people, and with the farmers? Thus they leave no means unattempted, whether by corrupt Bibles in the language of the people, or pestiferous newspapers and other like publications, or caviling conversation, or pretended charity, or, finally, by the gift of money, to allure ignorant people, and especially youth, into their nets, and induce them to desert the Catholic faith.” See GC 288.1

“We refer to facts, Venerable Brethren, which not only are known to you, but of which you are witnesses; even you, who, though you mourn, and, as your pastoral duty requires, are by no means silent, are yet compelled to tolerate in your dioceses these aforesaid propagators of heresy and infidelity. . . . Hence it is easy to conceive the state of anguish into which our soul is plunged day and night, as we, being charged with the superintendence of the whole fold of Jesus Christ, and the care of all the churches, must give account for his sheep to the Divine Prince of Pastors. And we have thought fit, Venerable Brethren, to recall to your minds by our present letter the causes of those troubles which are common to us and you, that you may more attentively consider how important it is to the church, that all holy priests should endeavor, with redoubled zeal, and with united labors, and with every kind of efforts, to repel the attacks of the raging foes of religion, to turn back their weapons, and to forewarn and fortify against the subtle blandishments which they often use. This, as you know, we have been careful to do at every opportunity; nor shall we cease to do it; as we also are not ignorant that you have always done it hitherto, and confidently trust that you will do hereafter with still more earnest zeal.”

“Given at Rome, at St. Mary the Greater, on the 18th of the Kalends of September, of the year 1840, the tenth of our pontificate.”

“GREGORY XVI., Pope.”

**Note:** “dominion was wrested from him,” What could James White be referring to? Dan. 7:26. . . . they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

## ***But of Protestants We Read.***

We are now in the Time of Matthew 24 when the Evil servant smites the Good.

*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}

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}

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}

**As the Protestant churches reject the clear, Scriptural arguments in defense of God's law, they will long to silence those whose faith they cannot overthrow by the Bible.** Though they blind their own eyes to the fact, they are now adopting a course which will lead to the persecution of those who conscientiously refuse to do what the rest of the Christian world are doing, and acknowledge the claims of the papal sabbath. {GC 592.2}

Note: Here “the papal sabbath” is used to warn in the strongest sense protestants against making sunday a Law. They do not see their reason for legalizing Sunday

as having the same results. A bad law that allows one criminal to benefit allows every criminal to benefit.

It is time for God's people to work as never before, because of the increase of wickedness. The God-fearing, commandment-keeping people should be diligent, not only in prayer, but in action; and this will bring the truth before those who have never heard it. The world is overborne with falsehood and iniquity, and those whom God has made the depositaries of his law, and of the pure religion of Jesus, must be determined to let their light shine. If they do nothing to disabuse the minds of the people, and through ignorance of the truth our legislatures should abjure the principles of Protestantism, and give countenance and support to the Roman fallacy, the spurious sabbath, *God will hold* his people who have had great light, *responsible* for their lack of diligence and faithfulness. *But if the subject of religious legislation is judiciously and intelligently laid before the people, and they see that through Sunday enforcement the Roman apostasy would be re-enacted by the Christian world, and that the tyranny of past ages would be repeated, then whatever comes, we shall have done our duty.* {RH, December 24, 1889 par. 4} {RH, March 9, 1911 par. 17}

When men indulge this accusing spirit, they are not satisfied with pointing out what they suppose to be a defect in their brother. If milder means fail of making him do what they think ought to be done, they will resort to *compulsion*. Just as far as lies in their power they will force men to comply with their ideas of what is right. This is what the Jews did in the days of Christ and *what the church has done ever since whenever she has lost the grace of Christ. Finding herself destitute of the power of love, she has reached out for the strong arm of the state to enforce her dogmas and execute her decrees.* {SSP 257.2} *Here is the secret of all religious laws that have ever been enacted, and the secret of all persecution from the days of Abel to our own time.* {MB 126.2}

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}