

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. “ {GC 443.1}

Paganism and Christianity met on the battlefield when Constantine contended for the throne of Rome; paganism and Christianity met in more deadly conflict in Alexandria, where Christian and pagan schools stood side by side. Here it was that such men as Origen and Clement, recognized Fathers of the church, adopted the philosophy of the Greeks, and applied to the study of the Bible the same methods which were common in the study of Homer and other Greek writers. *Higher criticism had its birth in Alexandria. It was the result of a mingling of the truths taught by Christ and the false philosophy of the Greeks. It was an attempt to interpret divine writings by the human intellect,* a revival of the philosophy of Plato. *These teachers, by introducing Greek philosophy into the schools which were nominally Christian, opened the avenue for the theological controversies which shook the Roman world,* and finally established the mystery of iniquity. SDP 261.1

The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-Day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in *giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith*, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? **The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded.** Our religion would be changed. **The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be counted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced.** The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The sabbath, of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on sand, storm and tempest would sweep away the structure. {1SM 204.2}

The patience of God has an object, but you are defeating it. He is allowing a state of things to come that you would fain see counteracted by and by, but it will be too late. God commanded Elijah to anoint the cruel and deceitful Hazael king over Syria, that he might be a scourge to idolatrous Israel. Who knows whether

God will not give you up to the deceptions you love? *Who knows but that the preachers who are faithful, firm, and true may be the last who shall offer the gospel of peace to our unthankful churches?* It may be that the destroyers are already training under the hand of Satan and only wait the departure of a few more standard-bearers to take their places, and with the voice of the false prophet cry, "Peace, peace," when the Lord hath not spoken peace. I seldom weep, but now I find my eyes blinded with tears; they are falling upon my paper as I write. *It may be that ere long all prophesyings among us will be at an end, and the voice which has stirred the people may no longer disturb their carnal slumbers.* {5T 77.1}

*The Third Angels Message*  
*JW Page 2*

"The whole advent host once believed that publishing the visions of Daniel and John on the chart, from which the swift messengers lectured in 1842 and 1843, was a fulfillment of this prophecy (Hab.2:2); and the unbelief of those who doubt now, does not prove that we were all mistaken then. The passing of the time, and the perpetual backsliding and unbelief of Adventists has not changed this truth of God into a lie; but it remains truth still.

You who participated in this first angel's message, and felt its power and glory, and saw its effects on the people, just go back with me to the camp-meetings, conferences, and other meetings where the time, 1843, was proclaimed from the chart. With what solemnity, zeal and holy confidence the servants of the Lord proclaimed the time. And O, how their words fell upon the people, melting the hardest sinner's heart; for God was with them, and his Spirit attended the solemn message. The most spiritual and devoted in all the churches caught the flame and many who had been trained to worship their church and their minister, here learned to "fear God" alone, and "give glory to him." This message weaned us from this world, and led us to the feet of Jesus, to seek forgiveness of all our sins, and a free and full salvation through the blood of Christ. Dear Brethren, Was this message "from heaven or from men?" I know your answer—"from heaven," Amen.

We then "tasted of the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come," and we can not, will not, dare not give it up, and call it a "mistake," the "work of man," "mesmerism," and "of the Devil," as many have done, and have fallen away. "It is impossible" "to renew" such "to repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." See Heb.6:4-6."

God has called His church in this day, as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. *By the mighty cleaver of truth*, the messages of the first, second, and third angels, *He has separated them from the churches and from the world* to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself. *He has made them the depositaries*

*of His law and has committed to them the great truths of prophecy for this time.* Like the holy oracles committed to ancient Israel, *these are a sacred trust to be communicated to the world.* The three angels of Revelation 14 represent the people who accept the light of God's messages and *go forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth.* Christ declares to His followers: "Ye are the light of the world." To every soul that accepts Jesus the cross of Calvary speaks: "Behold the worth of the soul: 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.'" ***Nothing is to be permitted to hinder this work.*** It is the all-important work for time; it is to be far-reaching as eternity. The love that Jesus manifested for the souls of men in the sacrifice which He made for their redemption, will actuate all His followers. {5T 455.2}

The expression "Church of God" ***does not refer to denominational names or lines.*** From the days of Christ, until the present, there has been a true church. ***Its members have often been scattered*** as far as human eye could discern, but on the record books of heaven they have been recognized as a single company. SDP 253.2

*The characteristic which marks the true church is adherence to the commandments of the God* of heaven. Wherever a people has been true Margin to these, God has honored them with his presence. Moreover, to each denomination which has arisen, there have been offered the same opportunities which were offered to the four succeeding nations as they arose; that is, the privilege of walking in all the light, and by that very act becoming an everlasting company. As truth was rejected by the nations and they fell, so truth has been rejected by one denomination after another, and they have fallen, another people taking the vacant place. This succession will be kept up until a remnant people who will keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus will be made up. They will enter the eternal city to reign with Christ. It is this struggle which was revealed to Daniel in the latter part of his last vision. The history of Rome becomes the history of religious controversy, and the struggle between truth and error is greater than ever before. SDP 253.3

Note: "As far as human eye could discern," Matt. 18:20 For ***where two or three are gathered together in my name,*** there am I in the midst of them.

Truth is not what I believe. Truth is not even what I know. Truth is fact. I may not believe it. I may not know it. That does not change it. It is there nevertheless, waiting to be discovered and believed.

Truth does not depend on the unsettled and changing opinions of men. It was truth before it was believed. It remains truth, whether it is believed or not. Reason does not originate or create it. It merely discovers it. Consequently, reason is not a source. Truth goes back beyond reason.

*Others would have us believe that the church is the source of authority,*

**particularly in matters of theology. They are wrong. The church is the product of truth. It does not originate it.** It came into being by accepting divine revelation. It is not the source of that revelation. Truth goes beyond the church, is antecedent to it. *When A Man Dies* CB Haynes 20. 2,3-21.1.

***We are not saved as a sect; no denominational name has any virtue to bring us into favor with God. We are saved individually as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.*** RH February 10, 1891, par. 6

Religion is a personal matter. ***We are not saved by companies; we are not saved by having our names on the church books; we are not saved by numbers.*** {1SAT 178.2}

***Profession alone is nothing. Names are registered upon the church-books upon earth, but not in the book of life.*** 1T504.2

***Not all the names registered in the church books are registered in the Lamb's book of life.*** 5T278.2

***It is the character, not the placing of our names on the church books, that makes us Christians.*** UL 28.5

***A mere profession of godliness, a name registered on the church-books, does not constitute one a child of God.*** {RH, February 13, 1894 par. 6}

***Their names may be enrolled on the church books, but they are not members of his body.*** {RH, September 18, 1900 par. 13}

***The fact that our names are on the church books will not secure for us an entrance into the kingdom of heaven.*** {RH, April 22, 1909 par. 11}

***We are to be saved as individuals, and in the day of test and trial we shall be able to discern between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.*** We are saved as individual believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. MB 36.1