

Bible Prophecy and Climate Change

Dr. Jeff Wehr

Most people would agree that air pollution is hazardous to our health. We recognize that we could do a better job in utilizing our resources to sustain life on the planet. But climate change should not be used to bring about a New World Order to put the world's resources in the hands of a few. Each nation should maintain its national sovereignty and utilize its resources to bring about the greatest good for her own citizenry. No nation has the right to control the resources of another nation. We should share information, whether that comes in the form of science, technology, or job skills, to help each nation to best utilize her own resources. But the world's resources do not logically belong to the Vatican or the world's elite. However, this is exactly where the world is heading.

The powers that be have utilized the subject of the environment to establish protocols that would supersede the sovereignty of nations. These protocols are to be seen in the UN Security Council Resolution 2030 agenda and the pope's call for the redistribution of wealth, the care of the environment, and Sunday legislation. We do not need to guess that these will be the issues in the end of time to bring about a New World Order of Church and State.

The purpose of this paper is not to identify the three powers in the end of time that will control the world. This we clearly delineated in our paper entitled: *The Papacy, the United States, and the United Nations*. The purpose of our paper is to see what the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy have to say had the subject of the environment and natural disasters as related to end time events.

I would like to begin with the following quotation found in *The Great Controversy*, pages 589, 590, and take each paragraph one at a time:

"Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would--He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some in order to further his own designs, and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them." GC 589

Satan works through elements of nature as much as God allows to bring death and suffering to our world. He will utilize the elements of nature to hold men and women in an unconverted state. As the Spirit of God is steadily withdrawn from the earth, and men show more and more contempt for God's law, there will be an increase in disasters around the globe. Satan hopes that men will blame God for these natural disasters. And as we will see, men will feel that they will need to pass a National Sunday Law to appease and angry God. Let us look at the next paragraph found in GC 589, 590

"While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests,

floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. "The earth mourneth and fadeth away," "the haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." Isaiah 24:4, 5. GC 589, 590

Satan brings death and disease by tainting the air and causing one calamity after another. People will look for a great physician to heal the land, the economy, and their diseases. This same Satan that caused these atrocities will come and disguise himself as an angel of light. He will pretend to be leading the world to a millennium of peace, prosperity, and health, but he is truly leading the world to the Battle of Armageddon. He is leading them to war against the Lamb in the persecution of the saints who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus. Next paragraph:

"And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity. Thus the accusation urged of old against the servant of God will be repeated and upon grounds equally well established: "And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim." 1 Kings 18:17, 18. As the wrath of the people shall be excited by false charges, they will pursue a course toward God's ambassadors very similar to that which apostate Israel pursued toward Elijah." GC 590

Satan, masquerading as the great physician, will falsely charge God's commandment keeping people that they are at fault for the world's miseries. He will deceive the world to believe that those who violate the Sunday law have brought about these calamities. Next paragraph:

"The miracle-working power manifested through spiritualism will exert its influence against those who choose to obey God rather than men. Communications from the spirits will declare that God has sent them to convince the rejecters of Sunday of their error, affirming that the laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God. They will lament the great wickedness in the world and second the testimony of religious teachers that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday. Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony." GC 590, 591

If the testimony of these false religious leaders does not solidify the world to enforce the Sunday laws with a death decree, then demons will impersonate those who have died to excite hatred towards the faithful. Next paragraph:

"Satan's policy in this final conflict with God's people is the same that he employed in the opening of the great controversy in heaven. He professed to be seeking to promote the stability of the divine government, while

secretly bending every effort to secure its overthrow. And the very work which he was thus endeavoring to accomplish he charged upon the loyal angels. The same policy of deception has marked the history of the Roman Church. It has professed to act as the vicegerent of Heaven, while seeking to exalt itself above God and to change His law. Under the rule of Rome, those who suffered death for their fidelity to the gospel were denounced as evildoers; they were declared to be in league with Satan; and every possible means was employed to cover them with reproach, to cause them to appear in the eyes of the people and even to themselves as the vilest of criminals. So it will be now. While Satan seeks to destroy those who honor God's law, he will cause them to be accused as lawbreakers, as men who are dishonoring God and bringing judgments upon the world." GC 591

As Satan deceive one-third of the angels that he was establishing a more stable government in heaven, so the pope and the elite will declare that they are instituting a more stable form of government for the future. However, the true purpose for their satanic endeavor is to lead men from the worship of God to the worship of themselves. Hence, there will be a false religious law that directs men to worship the beast instead of worshipping Him that created heaven and earth. Next paragraph:

"God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan's constant resort--to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce--is compulsion by cruelty. Through fear or force he endeavors to rule the conscience and to secure homage to himself. To accomplish this, he works through both religious and secular authorities, moving them to the enforcement of human laws in defiance of the law of God." GC 591

It should be clear to all that the persecutor could never be right. If God does not force the conscience, then certain men do not have the power. If they were to exercise such power, then they are not of God. Any religious power that must resort to the arm of the state to enforce her decrees is a church that has no faith in the true God. Next paragraph:

"Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government. Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God. In legislative halls and courts of justice, commandment keepers will be misrepresented and condemned. A false coloring will be given to their words; the worst construction will be put upon their motives." GC 592

As the religious crisis thickens and comes towards a close, those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be called enemies of the state. They will be charged with bringing anarchy, corruption, and fierce judgments upon the earth. It will be finally decided that they will be deserving of death.

As we considered these words found on pages 589-591 in *The Great Controversy*, we see how Sunday legislation is tied in with natural disasters and declining morals in society. We might ask the question as to why the devil has chosen to use focus on the environment and climate change to bring about the National Sunday Law? The simply answer is that the climate knows no borders. All are affected by climate change. So the devil found a subject, namely global warming, to bring the world together in such a way that supersedes the sovereignty of nations.

While this paper is not specifically on Agenda 21, UN 2030, or sustainable development, we do understand that these things are to bring about a New World Order that is intended to reduce the world's population by ninety percent. This whole agenda is about taking away people's rights, their possessions, and even their lives. So their climate change agenda places natural resources above human life. Their program is truly about death, not life.

God's people on the other hand, have a message about life, even life eternal. While Satan, the pope, and the world's elite marshal the world to war and destruction in the name of peace, prosperity, and good stewardship of the earth's resources, we are to prepare the world for the soon return of Christ. Our message is so much about life, that we even want to see our enemies converted. The New World Order wants to get rid of God's commandment keeping people. What a contrast!

Let us now see how Bible prophecy ties the coming Sunday laws and natural disasters together. For this study we will turn to Daniel chapter eleven. I would encourage you to take time and study our paper on "The Papacy, the United States, and the United Nations." That paper covers the prophecies found in Daniel chapters two and seven, and Revelation chapters thirteen and seventeen.

You will particular enjoy the flow of Bible prophecy from Daniel chapter two, which will be repeated and enlarged upon in Daniel chapter seven, which will be repeated and enlarged upon by Daniel chapter eleven. Like Daniel chapters two and seven, Daniel chapter eleven will follow the rise and fall of empires. It will begin in the day of the prophet with the Medo-Persian empire. As we go through this chapter, our particular interest will be verses 40-45, which speak directly about end times events. So let us now turn to the prophecies.

Daniel Chapter Eleven

This prophetic vision found in Daniel chapter eleven, will enlarge upon the previous prophetic pictures found in Daniel chapters two, seven, eight, and nine. It will chronologically take us from the Medo-Persian Empire, to Greece, to pagan Rome, to papal Rome, to the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the alliance between the United States and the Papacy. Let us now take it verse-by-verse.

Medo-Persia

Daniel 11:1, 2

"Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him. And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia."

Daniel first saw the Medo-Persian Empire in this prophetic picture. See verses 1-2. The Medes began the reign of this empire, and then the kings from Persia became the more dominant. How many more would arise after Darius? There would arise four Persian kings namely, Cambyses, Smerdis, Darius I, and Xerxes. See verse 2.

One of the grave mistakes of the Persians was their attempt to conquer westward. The only thing they achieved was to stir up the "realm of Grecia."

Greece

Daniel 11:3, 4

“And a mighty king [Alexander the Great] shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven [or his four generals]; and not to his posterity [for Alexander had no son], nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.”

A mighty king from Greece would arise, namely, Alexander the Great. He would conquer the Medes and Persians and become the next world empire. After his death Alexander’s kingdom would be divided among his four generals. Ptolemy would control Egypt. Seleucus would control Babylon. Lysimachus would control Asia Minor. And Cassander would control Macedonia. However, none of them would be as strong or mighty as Alexander.

Daniel 11:5

“And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion.”

The king of the south refers to the area of Egypt controlled by Ptolemy. As one of the four divisions of the Grecian Empire, Ptolemy was considered very strong. Yet, one of his [Alexander’s] princes would be even stronger. It is a matter of history that Seleucus, the general who controlled old Babylon, became stronger than them all. In fact, at one time he seemed to have taken in nearly three-fourth of Alexander’s empire.

The remainder of the commentary on the Grecian Empire will now focus on the struggles that took place between two of these divisions of the Grecian Empire, namely the king of the north in the area of Babylon and the king of the south who controlled the area of Egypt. The Jewish nation was affected by these two warring division of the Grecian Empire, for the land of Palestine was located between them.

Daniel 11:6

“And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king’s daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times.”

Berenice, the daughter of Ptolemy II, the king of the south, married Antiochus II, the king of the north, “for the king’s daughter of the south [Berenice] shall come to the king of the north [Antiochus II] to make an agreement [by marriage].” However, Antiochus’ former wife, Laodice, killed Antiochus, Berenice, her son and the Egyptian ladies that came with her, just as the prophecy predicted, “But she [Berenice] shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he [Antiochus] stand, nor his arm [their son]: but she shall be given up, and they [the Egyptian ladies] that brought her, and he [Ptolemy II, who died during this time] that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times.”

Daniel 11:7-9

“But out of a branch of her roots shall one stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail: and shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall

continue more years than the king of the north. So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land.”

Ptolemy III, son of Ptolemy II and brother to Berenice, invaded the North in revenge. He was successful in recapturing the gods and vessels, and brought them back to the South. If it had not been for some serious domestic problems back in Egypt, Ptolemy III could have possibly taken over the entire Babylonian area.

Daniel 11:10-13

“But his [Seleucus II] sons [Seleucus III and Antiochus III] shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces [from the kingdom in the north]: and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he [Antiochus III] return, and be stirred up, even to his fortress. And the king of the south [Ptolemy IV] shall he moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand. And when he [the king of the south] hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it [for Ptolemy IV did not follow-up his victory]. For the king of the north [Antiochus III] shall return [after the death of Ptolemy IV], and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches.”

The sons of Seleucus II, the king of the north, would fair much better than himself Antiochus III set out to regain Palestine and Jordan against Ptolemy IV, the king of the south. Antiochus III was defeated by Ptolemy IV at Raphia in 217 BC. However, Ptolemy IV did not follow-up his victory to solidify the Egyptian Empire. Antiochus III decided to direct his energies towards the east and was successful. When Ptolemy IV died, then Antiochus III tried again to defeat Egypt.

Daniel 11:14, I S

“And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall. So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to withstand.”

By 201 BC, the Egyptians surrendered. “And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south . . . and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people [the Jewish nation], neither shall there be any strength to withstand.” It was during this time also that the Jewish people were nearly exterminated. The temple was ravaged, and Jerusalem was plundered by Antiochus IV Epiphanes, king of the north. However, even Antiochus IV could not withstand the next world empire which is introduced in verse 16.

In summary of verses 1-15, we begin the prophetic outline with the rule of the Medes and Persians. See verses 1-2. Then the empire of Greece is described through verses 3-15. The primary focus is on Egypt (the king of the south) and the area of old Babylon (the king of the north).

In this battle between the king of the south (Egypt) and the king of the north (Babylon), we find that in the end the king of the north wins.

This is very important for us to remember because chapter eleven of Daniel closes with another confrontation between the king of the south and the king of the north. See verses 40-45. In this final episode we again find the king of the north defeating the king of the south.

However, in verses 40-45, Egypt (the king of the south) and Babylon (the kingdom of the north) are used symbolically in the Bible to describe powers that have been in a death fight during this 20th century. Who are they? We will let the Bible interpret them for us later in this chapter. Let us now turn to verse 16 and the introduction to the next world empire—Rome.

ROME

Daniel 11:16

“But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed.”

“But he [Rome] that cometh against him [Antiochus] shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land [of Palestine], which by his hand shall be consumed.” Verse 16. By 168 BC, the Roman armies had defeated the Grecian Empire. In 65 BC, Pompeii entered Jerusalem, and by 63 BC., Judea was under Roman jurisdiction.

Daniel 11:17

“He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do: and he shall give him the daughter of women, corrupting her: but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him.”

Julius Caesar set “his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom.” The Romans had captured the whole of Alexander’s kingdom. The woman who “shall not stand on his side, neither be for him [Julius Caesar]” was none other than Cleopatra.

Daniel 11:18, 19

“After this shall he turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him. Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.”

Julius Caesar turned his attention toward the coastlands of Africa, “after this shall he turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease.... Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.” Cleopatra’s “corrupting” influence upon Julius Caesar may have led his own princes, Cassius and Brutus, to signal the conspirators to stab Caesar to death in the Roman Forum.

Daniel 11:20

“Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.”

“Then shall stand up in his [Julius Caesar] estate a raiser of taxes [Caesar Augustus] in the glory of the kingdom.” Since Julius Caesar had no son, Octavius, his nephew whom he adopted, succeeded him. When Octavius became emperor, the Senate gave him the title of “Augustus.” Luke makes reference to Caesar Augustus, saying, “It came to pass in those days [the birth of Jesus], that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.” Luke 2:1. Hence, Augustus is the “raiser of taxes,” who died peacefully “neither in anger, nor in battle.”

Daniel 11:21

“And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.”

The “vile person” who succeeded Augustus was Tiberius. Because of his drunkenness, Rome did “not give the honour of the kingdom.” Tiberius was not well liked, but he came “in peaceably” because of the “flatteries” of his mother, Livia. Verse 21.

Daniel 11:22

“And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflown from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.”

During Tiberius’ reign (14-37 AD) there were many uprisings, many conquests, and there was, of course, the crucifixion of Christ in 31 AD. “And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflown from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant [Jesus Christ].” These “arms of a flood” were overcome by a greater flood of Roman armies. The “arms” were “broken” and their flood of uprisings were themselves flooded over. This, of course, reminds us of the flood of Roman armies that destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD.

Thus far, we have described a history of the pagan Roman Empire that fulfills the events surrounding the 70 weeks prophecy, namely, the crucifixion of Christ, and the destruction of the city and sanctuary. Now we are taken back to consider the reasons for the fall of the Jewish nation.

Daniel 11:23

“And after the league, made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.”

Because of the fierce persecution the Jewish nation experienced at the hands of the kings of the north, they decided to make an alliance with Rome in 162 BC. The decree with the Romans read, as follows: “The decree of the senate concerning a league of assistance and friendship with the nation of the Jews. It shall not be lawful for any that are subject to the Romans to make war with the nation of the Jews, nor to assist those that do so, either by sending them corn, or ships, or money; and if any attack be made upon the Jews, the Romans shall assist them, as far as they are able; and again, if any attack be made upon the Romans, the Jews shall assist them. And if the Jews have a mind to add to, or to take away anything from, this league of assistance, that shall be done with the common consent of the Romans. And whatsoever addition shall thus be made, it shall be of force.” Flavius Josephus, “Antiquities of the Jews,” book 12, chap. 10, sec. 6, The Works of Flavius Josephus, p. 374.

Nearly 150 years before the triumphs of Caesar Augustus, the Roman nation was comparatively small. Yet, she would grow in power and possessions through alliances and leagues. In exchange for a hefty tribute, nations would receive Roman protection from foreign invasion. It was precisely this kind of arrangement that the Jewish nation had with Rome. It would seem under these conditions that the Roman power and the Jewish nation would be allies or friends. However, Rome would work “deceitfully” and bring all things to her advantage. In the end, the Jews would not only lose their homeland to the Romans, but would be massacred by them.

This illustrates the important point that a common enemy does not make two people friends. The Soviet Union was a common enemy for the United States and the Church of Rome, but that should not encourage America to establish any laws supporting the doctrines of the Catholic Church, or any other church. More on this point later.

Daniel 11:24

“He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers’ fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time.”

The Roman Empire absorbed the “fattest places of the province” of Alexander’s conquests. The Romans were able to do “that which his fathers have not done, nor his father’s fathers.” They acquired vast territories through pacts or leagues. The usual way of gaining territory was through war and conquest.

They “shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches.” The Romans acquired great wealth in exchange for promising protection. They would scatter among the nobility and even the soldiers the spoils and tributes of other nations. “Yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strongholds, even for a time.” In other words, “Yes, the Romans would even work deceptively to bring down the strongholds of other nations, even for a time, for no strongholds in those days could withstand the pressure of Rome’s military, political, and economic power over time.”

Thus far, we see Rome taking control through pacts, alliances, and leagues. Rome did so with both secular and religious powers. But as we will see in the next verse, Rome used force as well as deceit. But her own corrupt ways would lead to her own eventual destruction.

Daniel 11:25-27

“And he [Rome, under Augustus] shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south [Egypt, under Antony] with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he [Antony] shall not stand [as Rome defeats Egypt in the Battle of Actium, in 31 BC]: for they shall forecast devices against him. Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat [when Augustus and Antony were once allies, both eating at the same table] shall destroy him [Augustus defeats Antony], and his [Antony’s] army shall overflow [or be swept away]: and many shall fall down slain. And both these kings’ hearts shall be to do mischief [neither one wanted to share the throne together], and they shall speak lies at one table [they shall act as if they support one another, but it is all a big lie]; but it shall not prosper [for all lies and corrupt ways will come to an end]: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed [God Himself will only suffer such corruption to continue for so long].”

After this detailed description of the Roman world during the time of Christ, and the Jewish nation's rejection of Him, the prophecy now turns to the next great epoch of Roman history, namely, the time of Constantine.

Daniel 11:28

"Then shall he [Constantine] return into his land [Constantinople] with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land."

The Roman capitol is transferred, in 330 AD, to Constantinople, known today as Istanbul, Turkey. "Then shall he [Constantine] return into his land [Constantinople] with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant." What is the "holy covenant"? "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." Hebrews 8:10; 10:16. God wants His Law to be written upon the hearts and mind of His people by faith. Why? Sin is the transgression of God's Law. See 1 John 3:4. God does not want His people to continue in sin, but to bring their lives into perfect conformity to His will.

Was Constantine against the holy covenant? Was Constantine a stumbling block for God to write His Law upon the hearts and mind of His people? The answer is "Yes." To attract the sun-worshipping pagans into the Church of Rome, Constantine established Sunday laws in 321 AD.

In the very heart of God's Law is the seventh-day Sabbath, which reads, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8-11.

The seventh-day Sabbath is not the Jewish Sabbath, for it was instituted at Creation thousands of years before there was a Jew. The Bible says, "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made" Genesis 2:1-3.

Therefore, by enforcing Sunday, the first day of the week, Constantine was in direct opposition against the fourth commandment of the Law of God.

Daniel 11:29

"At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter."

After the death of Constantine, the empire continued to crumble, and it became more difficult to protect her interests in the western part. Those new invading forces, namely, the Heruli, Goths, and the Vandals weakened the empire. Consequently, "it shall not be as the former, or as the latter." Daniel 11:29.

Daniel 11:30

“For the ships of Chittim [the Vandals and others] shall come against him [Rome]: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.”

The emperors of the east were grieved by these invading forces ransacking Rome. They were unable to hold the empire together, so they decided to have “intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.” An alliance continued to strengthen between the Vatican and the emperors in the east, both of which were against the holy covenant in their support of Sunday legislation and other erroneous church teachings supported by the state.

Notice too, that we went from Rome being “against the holy covenant” (verse 28), to Rome having “indignation against the holy covenant.” (verse 30). This is to show that the Sunday laws only became more stringent.

Papal Rome

Daniel 11:31

“And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.”

The Vatican began to move into the position of ruling both civilly and religiously in the west, when “arms [or armies] shall stand on his part.” In 508 AD, Clovis, king of the Franks, dedicated his sword to fight the battles of the Vatican. Consequently, France became the first Catholic nation. By 538 AD, the Vatican had gained complete control of the Western Roman Empire. Justinian, emperor of the Roman Empire, conferred this control on the Papacy. In that same year, the Ostrogoths, the last opposing power rivaling the Papacy, were destroyed.

With military support from other nations, the Papacy would “pollute the sanctuary of strength” by substituting her priesthood for the High Priestly ministry of Jesus Christ in the Heavenly Sanctuary. As a result, the daily or Christ’s role as the one and only true Mediator between God and man was taken away from before the people and replaced with the false priesthood of papal Rome, the “abomination that maketh desolate.”

The phrase “taken away” in this passage comes from the Hebrew word “sur,” which means to “pluck away” or “remove.” According to Bible prophesy, the Papacy had exalted the concept of mediation (Daniel 8:11), but she was not exalting the high priestly mediatorial work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary. Rather, she exalted herself and her own priesthood as the source of mediation between God and man.

Daniel 11:31-39, will now describe the dark rule of the Papacy for 1260 years, from 538 AD to 1798 AD. During this time we find, on the one hand, gross compromise on the part of the Roman Church, but on the other hand, we find a steadfast faith on the part of God’s true church in the face of persecution and death.

Daniel 11:32-35

“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries [those who work against God’s covenant naturally corrupt themselves with boastful words]: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits [for in the midst of this Papal apostasy, God has a true church that continues to move forward even in the face of persecution]. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many [God’s

true church instructs people in the Word of God, not in the traditions of men]: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days [these faithful Christians risked their lives to proclaim the truth]. Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help [God will not allow the Papacy and her forces to completely eradicate the true and faithful. God will always have a faithful remnant]: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries [yet, many reformers themselves would fall to the sin of self-centered boasting]. And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed [the persecution of the righteous would continue until the “time of the end” in 1798, when the Papacy would lose her political power.”]

The Papacy performed wickedly against the “covenant” by thinking she had the power to change God’s Law. They corrupted many statesmen and religious leaders by flatteries, such as calling Clovis the “Most Christian Majesty” and the “Eldest Son of the Church.” However, there was a faithful remnant in the Christian world that could not be bought or sold. The trials they faced purified their characters and made “them white.”

Daniel 11:36, 37

“And the king [the Papacy as a political power] shall do according to his will [in exercising governance over the nations]; and he [the pope] shall exalt himself [above everybody else], and magnify himself above every god [by claiming to have all power in things spiritual and temporal], and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods [by claiming to be God on earth, and possessing the authority to forgive sins], and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished [the Papacy would prosper in earthly power, possessions, and prestige until the fulfillment of the 1260 year prophecy]: for that that is determined shall be done [for surely these things shall take place]. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers [for the Papacy does not share the same faith and doctrine as the apostles], nor the desire of women [nor would she accept the teachings brought forth by the reformed churches], nor regard any god [of any other religion]: for he shall magnify himself above all [the pope views himself as above all others].”

Daniel 11:38

“But in his estate [of self-proclaimed divinity] shall he [the Papacy] honour the God of forces [because she has lost the power of the Spirit, she must now resort to the power of the state]: and a god [of mammon] whom his fathers [the apostles] knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things [as she studies to acquire great wealth in this old world].”

Daniel 11:39

“Thus shall he [the Papacy] do in the most strong holds with a strange god [for the Papacy has hardened her heart against the truth, refusing to repent, as she tenaciously holds to a strange god that is completely foreign to the apostles], whom he shall acknowledge [or behold] and increase with glory [and become just like that strange god]: and he shall cause them to rule over many [in her vast control over so much of the world], and shall divide the land for gain [among her supporters].”

It is indeed a “strange god” that the Papacy worships, that inspires her to have her princes to “rule over many” and to “divide the land for gain.” This old world is not the inheritance of the saints. Jesus will create a new heaven and a new earth. So, why should a church exhaust her energies in conquering and controlling a world that will soon pass away? It is simply tragic!

The New King of the North and the New King of the South

Daniel 11:40

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him [the Papacy]: and the king of the north [the Papacy] shall come against him [the king of the south] like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.”

Now we come to the “time of the end.” The “time of the end” is not the end of the “end of time,” but a period of time that simply begins the “end of time.” Daniel was told to “shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” Daniel 12:4.

When the Papacy received her deadly wound in 1798 AD, simultaneously all around the world people began to open the book of Daniel and “knowledge” was increased concerning the prophecies of Daniel. Therefore, the “time of the end” brings us to the year of 1798 and the end of the Papacy’s 1260-year rule.

We know historically, that it was the atheistic French Revolution that inflicted the deadly wound upon the Papacy in 1798. Is the “king of the south,” therefore, being used symbolically to refer to the atheistic French Revolution?

We know that the “king of the south” was used earlier in the chapter to represent Egypt. See verses 5-15. Does the Bible, therefore, use Egypt symbolically to represent an atheistic power like the French Revolution?

The Bible says, “And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.” Revelation 11:7-9.

The two bodies that were dead for three and one-half prophetic days [or three and one half literal years] are the Old and New Testaments. We are told that the power which persecuted the Word of God, is spiritually or symbolically called Egypt. Is Egypt then symbolic of an atheistic power? Yes. This power came out of a bottomless pit, meaning that it had no foundation in the Bible—it is an atheistical power founded on erroneous principles.

So why would God use Egypt to represent symbolically an atheistic power? In Exodus 5:2 “Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.” In these boastful words, Pharaoh denied the very existence of the God of Israel. And ever since then, Egypt has been used to represent atheistic powers in Bible prophecy.

Did any power in 1798 manifest this spirit? “By the decree of the French Government, declaring that the nation acknowledged no God, the Old and New Testaments were slain throughout the limits of Republican France... On the 1st of November, 1793, Gobet, with the Republican priests of Paris, had thrown off the gown, and abjured Religion. On the 11th, a ‘Grand Festival,’ dedicated to ‘Reason and Truth,’ was celebrated in the Cathedral of Notre Dame, which had been desecrated, and been named ‘the Temple of Reason:’” George Croly, *The Apocalypse of St. John*, 175-177.

Was the Bible suppressed for three and one-half years in France? “In 1793, the decree passed the French Assembly suppressing the Bible. Just three years after, a resolution was introduced into the Assembly to supersede the decree, and giving toleration to the Scriptures. That resolution lay on the table six months, when it was taken up, and passed without a dissenting vote. . . .On the 17th of June.” George Storrs, *Midnight Cry*, May 4, 1843, vol. 4, nos. 5-6; 47.

It was the atheistic French Revolution that suppressed the Bible for exactly three and one half years. It was this same power that inflicted a deadly wound against the Papacy in 1798.

Now we have another question to answer, Is the Papacy rightly symbolized by Babylon, the king of the north?

In Revelation chapter seventeen, it says, “And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” Revelation 17:5. This verse teaches us that Babylon is being used symbolically in prophecy. It is representing a “woman.” A “woman” in Bible prophecy represents a church. See 2 Corinthians 11:2; Jeremiah 6:2; Isaiah 51:16; Ephesians 5:22-35. However, this “woman” is a “harlot,” representing an apostate church. See Isaiah 1:21; Jeremiah 3:1-9; Revelation 17:5. This apostate church is the “MOTHER OF HARLOTS.” As the mother, she would represent the main apostate church. But she is not alone, as a mother, she must then have daughters that have also joined in her apostasy.

This “harlot” also represents a great city, for the Bible says, “And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.” Revelation 17:18. So here is an apostate church that reigns from a “great city.”

Now this harlot church is said to sit “upon many waters.” Revelation 17:1. “Waters” represent “people, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” Revelation 17:15. In other words, this harlot church has the wide support of the nations.

She also sits upon a “scarlet-colored beast.” A “beast” in Bible prophecy represents political power. See Daniel 7:23; Revelation 13-19. Therefore, this harlot church sits upon or possesses political power.

She also sits upon seven mountains, for the Scriptures read, “And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads [upon the beast] are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.” Revelation 17:9.

So what is the “great city” that sits on “seven mountains”? That is unquestionably the city of Rome. Is there an apostate church that is located in Rome? Yes, it is the Church of Rome. Does the Church of Rome possess political power? Yes, the Church of Rome possesses political power. Does the Church of Rome have the support of much of the world? Yes, the pope is perhaps the most popular international world figure today. He is highly welcomed to speak at the United Nations, which houses most of the nations of our world.

So we can clearly see that Babylon is not only used symbolically in Bible prophecy, but it is used in particular to represent the Papacy.

So in verse 40, we accurately read, “And at the time of the end [1798] shall the king of the south [an atheistic power, the atheistic French Revolution] push at [or war against] him [the king of the north, the Papacy].”

However, notice the latter part of the verse, it reads, the “king of the north [the Papacy] shall come against him [an atheistic power] like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries and shall overflow and pass over.” Daniel 11:40.

When did the Papacy, since 1798, come against an atheistic power like a “whirlwind”? It happened just before our eyes. It was the fall of the Soviet Union. *Newsweek* magazine entitled its article on the fall of Communism as the “Days of the Whirlwind.” *Newsweek*, December 25, 1989.

The atheistic seeds that were planted in the French Revolution gave birth to the Russian Revolution over one hundred years later—in 1917. As Communism spread, it took over nations that were once predominately controlled by the Papacy. Most of these countries were found in Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, parts of Africa, South America, and Central America. A real death fight went on between the Vatican and Soviet Communism. But, as the Bible predicted, the Vatican would prevail over Communism; the king of the north [the Papacy] would triumph over the king of the south [in the form of the Soviet Union]. Consider the following news items supporting the fulfillment of this prophecy:

“Of all the events that have shaken the Soviet bloc in 1989, none is more fraught with history—or more implausible—than the polite encounter to take place this week in Vatican City. There, in the spacious ceremonial library of the 16th century Apostolic Palace, the czar of world atheism, Mikhail Gorbachev, will visit the Vicar of Christ, Pope John Paul II.

“The moment will be electric, not only because John Paul helped inflame the fervor for freedom in his Polish homeland that swept like brush fire across Eastern Europe. Beyond that, the meeting of the two men symbolizes the end of the 20th century’s most dramatic spiritual war, a conflict in which the seemingly irresistible force of Communism battered against the immovable object of Christianity.” *Time*, December 4, 1989.

“The Soviet president’s session Friday with Pope John Paul II is the latest development of a revolution in the Communist world that the pope helped spark and Gorbachev has allowed to happen.” *USA Today*, cover story.

“Until recently, the battalions of Marxism seemed to have the upper hand over the soldiers of the Cross. In the wake of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, Lenin had pledged toleration, but delivered terror. ‘Russia turned crimson with the blood of martyrs,’ says Father Gleb Yakunin, Russian Orthodoxy’s bravest agitator for religious freedom. In the Bolshevik’s first five years in power, 28 bishops and 1,200 priests were cut down by the red sickle. Stalin greatly accelerated the terror, and by the end of Khrushchev’s rule, liquidation of the clergy reached an estimated 50,000. After World War II, fierce but generally less bloody persecution spread into the Ukraine and the new Soviet bloc, affecting millions of Roman Catholics and Protestants as well as Orthodox.” *Time*, December 4, 1989.

“The rush to freedom in Eastern Europe is a sweet victory for John Paul II.” *Life*, December 1989.

“In private meetings with heads of state, back room consultations with dissident groups and persistent propagandizing for his crusade against tyranny, he [John Paul II] has helped bring about the greatest policy change since the Russian Revolution.” *Life*, December 1989.

“His [Pope John Paul II] triumphant tour of Poland in 1979, says Polish bishop, altered the ‘mentality of fear, the fear of police and tanks, of losing your job, of not getting promoted, of being thrown out of school, of failing to get a passport. People learned that if they ceased to fear the system, the system was helpless.’ Thus was born Solidarity, backed by the church and led by such friends of the pope as Lech Walesa and Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who subsequently became the Soviet bloc’s first Christian Prime Minister.” *Time*, December 4, 1989.

“In 1935 Joseph Stalin, absolute ruler of the Soviet Union, was given some unsolicited advice. Make a propitiatory gesture to the Vatican, he was told. Pushed too far, his country’s Catholics might become counterrevolutionary. Stalin’s great mustache amplified his sneer. ‘The pope. And how many divisions has he?’ The answer then was that he has none. The answer now is that he needs none. The structures of Communism are crumbling to the touch.” *Life*, December 1989.

“In May 1981 before a vast audience in St. Peter’s Square, Pope John Paul was shot and severely wounded by Mehmet An Agea. There was immediate speculation that the gunman had been sent by East bloc plotters from Bulgaria, sponsored by the Soviet secret police. Their aim: to silence the one man capable of shaking the foundations of international Communism.” *Ibid*.

This amazing prophecy even describes how the Vatican would bring down Communism in the Soviet Union. The Papacy would topple the Soviet Union by “chariots and horsemen” and “ships.” What do “chariots and horsemen” and “ships” represent in Bible prophecy? Chariots and horsemen represent military strength.

“Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.... And Benhadad the king of Syria gathered all his host together: and there were thirty and two kings with him, and horses, and chariots: and he went up and besieged Samaria, and warred against it. . . . And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.” 1 Kings 1:5; 20:1; Revelation 19:11.

Ships represent economic power. “They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters.... For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company of ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off . . . And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.” Psalm 107:23; Revelation 18:17, 19.

It might be logically asked, How could the Papacy defeat the Soviets militarily and economically? As will be shown in the following news items, the Papacy formed an alliance with the United States. The United States would accelerate an arms race with the Soviet Union, so that the Soviet economy would collapse.

“In 1981, the Communist bloc got another shock. A new American President, Ronald Reagan, began fulfilling his promise to challenge the Soviets, not to placate them. Over the next few years, he accelerated the military buildup and announced the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), a space-based system for protecting against missile attack. He harked anti-communist rebels in Nicaragua, Angola, Cambodia, and Afghanistan. And with American troops, he liberated the island of Grenada from Communist thugs.

“The Soviets’ confidence was shaken.... The Western Europeans also pressured the Soviets. NATO forged ahead with military modernization. German voters spurned Soviet ‘peace overtures’ and elected a government that voted to deploy new intermediate-range missiles. . . . Military pressure from America and its Western allies had caused the Soviets to flinch.” *Reader’s Digest*, March 1990.

“For Gorbachev, the ferment in the Baltics is shaking not just a small corner of the empire built by Lenin and Stalin, but the foundations of the empire itself. The nationalities question is a potent distillation of many other signs, from a crumbling economy to violent ethnic clashes. . . . As the economy deteriorates and shortages grow, public disillusionment with Communism and with Gorbachev himself are rising, and hostile republics, nationalities and interests groups are competing more fiercely for political power and for shares in the shrinking economy.” *U.S. News & World Report*, January 15, 1990.

“Reagan came with very simple and strongly held views,” says Admiral Bobby Inman, former deputy director of the CIA. “It is a valid point that he saw the collapse [of Communism] coming and he pushed it hard.” During the first part of 1982, a five-part strategy emerged that was aimed at bringing about the collapse of the Soviet economy. . . . 1. The U.S. defense buildup, already under way, aimed at making it too costly for the Soviets to compete militarily with the S.D.I., Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative—Star Wars became a centerpiece of the strategy. 2. Covert operations aimed at encouraging reform movements in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. 3. Financial aid to Warsaw-Pact nations calibrated to their willingness to protect human rights and undertake political and free-market reforms. 4. Economic isolation of the Soviet Union and the withholding of Western and Japanese technology from Moscow. The administration focused on denying the USSR what it had hoped would be its principal source of hard currency in the twenty-first century—profits from a transcontinental pipeline to supply natural gas to Western Europe. . . . 5. Increased use of Radio liberty, Voice of America and Radio Free Europe to transmit Administration’s messages to the people of Eastern Europe.” *Time*, February 4, 1992, 29-30.

Twenty-five hundred years ago, Daniel was shown that the Soviet Union would fall, due to economic and military pressure from the Vatican and the United States. Isn’t that simply amazing? What’s next?

Daniel 11:41

“He [the Papacy] shall enter also into the glorious land [of America], and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.”

The next big event, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, will be the clasping of hands between the Papal power and the United States. We are told that the Papacy would enter into the “glorious land.”

In verse 16, the “glorious land” referred to the land of Palestine, where the Jewish people were to be a blessing to all other nations. They were to share the Word of God with all kindreds, tongues, and people. They were to tell of the Messiah to come. They were to share the principles of His Law, and explain the meaning of the sacrificial services. But Israel had kept all these things to herself. So God raised up for Himself another people. It would be the church that would share and exemplify the very principles set forth in Scripture.

But throughout the centuries the true church had been persecuted, first by pagan Rome, and then by papal Rome. Eventually, God’s people would find freedom of religion in the New World of America. This New World would

eventually become known as the United States. Here in this great nation the gospel has been freely preached. From this great nation, the Bible has been translated in hundreds of languages and spread throughout the world like the leaves of autumn. The United States, in comparison to all other nations, best fulfills the prophecy pointing to the “glorious land.”

And it is God’s desire that this great nation should maintain the principles that have made her great. Here Christianity has been able to progress because our people have been taught that they can go directly to Jesus Christ as their Mediator. Protestant America knew that individuals did not need to go through priests and dead saints. Jesus Christ alone is the Mediator between God and man. This great gospel principle has for hundreds of years protected us from evil men who would force the conscience of their fellow man. God designed that this nation should ever provide freedom of religion.

However, the Papacy would enter into the “glorious land” of America and “many ... shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.” Verse 41. What will happen in America that will cause many to be overthrown while others try to escape?

There is no conflict described here between the Papacy and the glorious land. Here is described an entrance, not by conquest, but by redefining, clasping hands, forming a coalition, finding common ground, agreeing on points of doctrine, and forming a partnership. Is such a relationship occurring today? And who in America is foremost in forming this relationship with the Vatican?

Ralph Reed, former executive director of the Christian Coalition, said: “The future of American politics lies in the growing strength of Evangelicals and their Roman Catholic allies. If these two core constituencies, Evangelicals comprising the swing vote in the South, Catholics holding sway in the North, can cooperate on issues and support like-minded candidates, they can determine the outcome of almost any election in the nation.” Ralph Reed, *Politically Incorrect*, 16.

Former ambassador to the Vatican, Melady, stated: “And I believe that, just as the Evangelicals have become the base vote of the Republican party, Catholics are now today the swing vote in American politics. Any candidate who wins the Catholic vote will be able to govern America.... The Catholic vote holds the key to the future of America. And I believe that if they can unite, if Catholics can unite with the Evangelical Christians, the Protestants, who share their views on the sanctity of innocent human life, on the need of religious liberty and school choice and common sense values, I believe if Catholics and Evangelicals can unite there is no person who runs for office in any city or any state in America that can’t be elected and there is no bill that can’t be passed in either house of Congress or any state legislative chamber anywhere in America. It is the emerging force in the electorate today.” Quoted in G. Edward Reid, *Sunday’s Coming*, 71.

Evangelicals in America are a political powerhouse in American politics. As we have seen, they are forming a coalition with the Church of Rome. The tragic outcome of this alliance with the Vatican is the union of church and state in America. Religious laws will be passed that will steal away our religious liberties. As we will see in Revelation chapter thirteen, America will form an image or likeness to the Papacy in uniting church and state, they will enforce the authoritative mark of Papal supremacy, namely, Sunday legislation. This will bring national ruin to our nation.

But not all will support this unholy alliance. The true and faithful found in Edom, Moab, and Ammon choose to escape, and do escape this corruption.

Who are Edom, Moab, and the children of Ammon symbolically representing? In ancient times, these three nations were the three enemies of ancient Israel. Are there three enemies facing God's church today? Yes, in Revelation chapter sixteen, they are described as the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. See Revelation 16:13. In Revelation, chapter nineteen, they are described as the kings of the earth, the beast, and the false prophet. See Revelation 19:19-20.

The dragon, beast, and false prophet

The Bible says, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Revelation 12:9. The dragon represents how Satan and his demons have used deception through the varied forms of spiritualism. Paul said, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1. There are a great number of people deceived through the many faces of spiritualism today. But the main source of these deceptions is the common and erroneous belief that we can communicate with the dead.

As we think about it, most of the pagan religions of our world, past and present, are based upon some ancestral worship of the deceased. They have made gods out of their dead kings, queens, and pharaohs. And what defines much of their worship is the communication with these personalities. However, the Bible declares that the dead know not anything, and that the living cannot communicate with the dead. See Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6. The Bible clearly teaches the doctrine of the resurrection, both of the just and the unjust.

Who is the false prophet? The Bible says, "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." Revelation 19:20. The description of the "false prophet" is the same as the description of the United States in Revelation chapter thirteen as the second beast. For example, the Bible says, "And he [the second beast] exerciseth all the power of the first beast [the Papacy] before him, ... And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and he 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.... 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." Revelation 13:12-14, 16.

Any false prophet in America must be represented by an apostate *religious* power. After all, it is the false *prophet*. Apostate Protestants in America represent the false prophet, who are working with superhuman effort to bring about the union of church and state. They will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf in clasping hands with the Roman power. They will pressure our lawmakers to pass a National Sunday Law which is in direct opposition to the fourth commandment of God, the seventh-day Sabbath.

Who is the beast? As we will see, the beast of Revelation chapter thirteen and seventeen is represented by none other than the Vatican. In this threefold union of spiritualism, apostate Protestantism, and Catholicism, Satan will

lead this world into a time of trouble such as there has never been since there was a nation. However, not all who are in the communion of these three institutions will participate in persecuting others, for the prophecy states that “the chief of the children” shall escape.

The word “chief” means “firstfruits.” In other words, the “firstfruits” of those who find themselves in the communion of spiritualism, apostate Protestantism, and Catholicism will come out and take their stand for truth. They represent the earnest seekers for truth. They are currently living up to all the light that they have. In fact, most of God’s people can be found in these three communions. But sad to say, most individuals in these three communions will remain and receive “the mark of the beast.”

The word “chief” also comes from the root word “to shake,” or “shaking.” In other words, when the Papacy and the United States form a New World Order of Church and State and enforce religious legislation, there will be a religious shaking in our world. The firstfruits are shaken out of these three fallen communions and shaken in the camp of God’s faithful commandment-keeping people. Indeed, our world will be shaken down to its very roots and all will have to take their stand.

Remember, God has His people in all of the churches. There is a gulf between the Vatican and the average Catholic. There is a vast difference between Protestants who love their neighbor, and those who would force their beliefs upon others. Therefore, in this last great struggle between truth and error, the true and faithful will come forth and take their stand on the side of God.

To these precious souls, God calls, “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” Revelation 18:4. They will come out of the corruption that is in the churches. But what are they coming into? The Bible says, “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.... And the dragon [Satan] was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 14:12; 12:17. These precious souls are no doubt escaping by following God and keeping all of His commandments.

They are choosing to obey God rather than men. They choose to “worship him that made heaven, and earth” rather than to “worship the beast.” Revelation 14:7, 9. And the commandment of God that directs us to worship the Creator is the fourth commandment the seventh-day Sabbath.

Daniel 11:42

“He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries [all nations]: and the land of Egypt [atheistic China] shall not escape.”

In this verse, we begin to see the Vatican exercising governance over the world. “He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.” There is not one country that will escape this New World Order of Church and State—not even atheistic China. The Vatican will supersede the sovereignty of all nations. She has already begun to fill the void made by the fall of Communism. We have seen this in Poland. However, all nations will pay homage to her, and she will lead them all astray.

Daniel 11:43

“But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.”

In this verse, we begin to see the Vatican influencing the economic orders of the day. “But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt:” This new economic realignment is due in part to economic difficulties. Temporal prosperity will cease very suddenly. Individual countries, with their economies so fully integrated with one another, will not be able to come up with a national solution. The world will be looking for a global solution to this worldwide economic crisis. They will be looking to the king of the north, the Papacy, who is the antichrist of Bible prophecy, the man of sin, the first beast of Revelation chapter thirteen, and the harlot church of Revelation chapter seventeen.

Why do I believe this depicts an economic crisis? We can answer that by asking another question, When did literal Egypt lose all her “precious things” in the Old Testament? God punished Egypt with one plague after another for not letting Israel go. When the tenth plague hit Egypt, the Egyptians became eager for the Hebrews to take the precious things of Egypt and leave the country. In like manner, when our world experiences one disaster after another, from both natural forces and terrorist sources, our world economy will crumble. The world will look to the highly centralized, multi-national, and multi-cultural Vatican to work with the United States and the United Nations to solve these global problems. All the countries will be involved and supportive of this New World Order of Church and State. Why do I believe that? The verse says that the Ethiopians and the Libyans will be at his steps. The Ethiopians were the rich neighbors of Egypt, while the Libyans were considered the poor neighbors. The Bible says, “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: and that no man [of any nation] 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. In the end, all nations, whether rich or poor, great or small, will be caught up in the mark of the beast, whose number is 666.

It should be noted that in verse 43, “Egypt” is used symbolically to represent the world. As we have seen, “Egypt” can symbolize an atheistic power as in verses 40 and 42, but it can also symbolically represent the whole world. For example, when Egypt experienced the devastation of her ten plagues, it prefigured the time when the whole world will be devastated by the seven last plagues. See Revelation chapter sixteen. So the loss of economic power in verse 43 is not referring to some atheistic power alone, but to the world at large.

But let us not overlook the emphasis for the loss of this temporal prosperity. As with ancient Egypt, the loss was due to natural disasters. This highlights the current development underway to change the order of things through Agenda 21, UN2030, and the Sustainable Development protocols. The devil as we saw earlier in our study will use the fierce elements of nature to help bring about the National Sunday Law. He will use these natural disasters to put teeth into the Sunday laws. The current movements to bring the world under these environment laws is for them to come up with a regional or worldwide solution. In short, it is designed that no nation tries to come up with simply a national solution. Hence, laws will be passed to supersede the sovereignty of nations. In part, these environmental solutions will include the redistribution of wealth and a Universal Sunday Law.

Daniel 11:44

“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.”

The message that inspired the firstfruits within Edom, Moab, and Ammon to escape the corruption of this unholy alliance between church and state, has now reached its crescendo in verse 44. For “tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him [the Papacy]: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.”

The tidings out of the “east” are in reference to the second coming of Christ. “For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:27. God’s true church will be preaching the soon return of Christ, while the world will have already received the false christ. Paul warned us, “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” 2 Corinthians 11:14—15. Satan will come and pretend to be Jesus. Under this grand deception of Satan the world will be deceived into forming an allegiance with Rome.

Jesus warned us, “Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.... And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.... Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matthew 24:4—5, 11, 23—24.

Remember, the counterfeit will come before the true. Satan will impersonate Christ before Jesus Himself shall appear. And the vast world will tragically be deceived and receive Satan thinking that it is Jesus. But the true and faithful will not be deceived, they will continue to proclaim to the world that Jesus is yet to come. Imagine the fierce pressure these saints of God will face. Due to the terrible economic collapse of our world and the terrible disasters that will have devastated so much of our countryside and cities, the world will accept Satan as the great benefactor of the human race.

The tidings out of the “east” also refer to the special sealing of God’s people, when an “angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God” cries out “with a loud voice,” saying, “Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their fore-heads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.” Revelation 7:2-4.

The purpose of the seal is to shield the faithful from the destruction of the seven last plagues. But notice, they can only receive the seal of God if they have brought their lives into perfect harmony with the will of God.

This seal of God is a sign of ownership. These faithful followers of Christ have received the light of truth and are steadfastly settled in it by the grace of God. Those who receive the mark of the beast, on the other hand, have rejected the light of truth and are unsettled in their relationship with Christ.

But none will say “I never knew about the seal of God,” or “No one told me about these things.” For as our sun reaches the four corners of the earth, just so will everyone have enough light to make an intelligent decision between the seal of God and the mark of the beast. The requirements of the seal of God are given in 2 Timothy 2:19, that only those who depart from all evil will be sealed for the kingdom and protected from God’s wrath to come. Evil or sin is defined as the breaking of God’s Law. See 1 John 3:4. Therefore, we cannot separate the seal of

God from keeping all of God's Ten Commandments. Just so, God describes His last-day followers as those who "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12.

By the "faith of Jesus" we become obedient children unto God. As children we become more and more like our Savior Jesus Christ and our heavenly Father. Therefore it should be no surprise that the seal of God and the character of God are inseparable. In Revelation 14:1, the sealed company are said to have the "Father's name written on their foreheads." Seal, sign, mark, and name are synonymous terms. Therefore, God signs, marks, or seals with His name, and His name is an expression of His own perfect character. This special company of believers are sealed with the altogether beautiful character of Jesus. They have received day by day the transforming power of the character of Christ, and have thus separated themselves from evil.

A seal is also defined as that which authenticates or confirms. As such, a seal is often used in connection with laws or legal documents. The Law of God is itself a transcript of the character of God. In those Ten Commandments is expressed God's ideal of truth, justice, love, and mercy. It is God's desire to write His law upon the hearts and mind of His people. See Hebrews 8:10; 10:16. It is the Law of God that is referred to as the sign of discipleship. See Isaiah 8:16, 17, 20. Writing God's Law upon the heart and mind of man is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring the individual into harmony with the will of God. 2 Corinthians 3:3. The Sabbath commandment is all part of God's holy Law and the sealing of God's people. It is part of the truth that God desires His people to receive and settle in. The seventh-day Sabbath is clearly declared to be the seal, sign, or mark of holiness. See Exodus 31:15-17; Ezekiel 20:12, 20. And it will be the Sabbath commandment most under fire by the traditions of men in these last days.

Thus far, we see the "glad tidings from the east" referring to a people who proclaim the soon return of Christ and who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. They do so in a world that has overwhelming wondered after the beast—the Papacy. In the face of Sunday laws becoming more and more stringent, they remain faithful to God. In a world swept away by the deceptiveness of Satan's impersonation of Christ, and his demons impersonation of the deceased, they remain vigilant against Satan's spiritualistic devices.

In Bible prophecy, "north" represents judgment. For example, "Then the LORD said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land. . . . And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands." Jeremiah 1:14, 16.

While God's people are declaring that God is judging the world (see Daniel 7:10; 8:14; Revelation 14:7), the world will have already judged God's people and penalized them with economic boycotts. See Revelation 13:15—17. With love from above, God's people must continue to warn apostate Christianity to turn away from their evil course before it is too late. Have they not read, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." (Matthew 7:1—2); and "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword"? Revelation 13:10.

Unfortunately, this apostate Christianity will take that fatal step in "great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many." There will be many martyrs in the end of time, but the promise of God is, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Revelation 2:10.

The apostle John declares, "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years [in heaven]." Revelation 20:4. Notice that it is not the persecutors that reign with Christ and receive eternal life, but those who are persecuted.

Daniel 11:45

"And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him."

This verse brings us to the Battle of Armageddon. "And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him." Here is depicted a great battle symbolically fought between the seas (the Mediterranean) and the glorious holy mountain (in Jerusalem). What battlefield existed between these two geographical points? The prophetess Deborah was instructed of God to tell Barak to lead ten thousand men to fight the enemy of Israel. They were engaged in battle by the "waters of Megiddo." Judges 5:19. It was here that all the wicked were slain. See Judges 4:16.

God has drawn our attention to the literal battle that has already been fought at the waters of Megiddo, so that we might better understand the worldwide battle of Armageddon. Armageddon and Megiddo come from the same root word. The Battle of Armageddon is not a literal battle in the Middle East. The word Armageddon means "mountain of slaughter," and it is without question worldwide. The outcome will be the same, namely, all the wicked will be slain.

When the wicked, at the time of the sixth plague, attempt to wipe out God's people in one decisive blow, they will themselves be totally annihilated by God's intervention. Christ will come and the rest of the wicked will be "slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.... And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming." Revelation 19:21; 2 Thessalonians 2:8. When Christ comes to deliver His people, He will slay the rest of the wicked with the sword of His mouth and the brightness of His coming. Interestingly, Barak's name means "sword of lightning." His name well describes how Christ will destroy the wicked. We might also add that this battle at Megiddo was during the time of a prophetess, Deborah. Will the last great conflict between good and evil in the great Battle of Armageddon also be during the time of a prophetess?

The Papacy is able to enter into the "glorious land" of America, but she is not able to enter into the "glorious holy mountain." She can enter into the minds of Protestants who are willing to compromise truth for a party platform, but the Papacy cannot enter into the minds of the faithful followers of Christ who will be settled in the truth and cannot be moved. The Bible says, "These [the 144,000] are they which were not defiled with women [the apostate churches]; for they are virgins [obedient to God]. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God . . . which were sealed ... with ... the seal of the living God." Revelation 14:4-5; 7:2-4.

While the world will receive the mark of the beast, God's people will receive the seal of the living God. When Jesus comes, He will resurrect the great faithful multitude throughout the ages that have trusted in Him, and translate the living saints. The wicked who will have received the mark of the beast are lost eternally.