

PROPHECY AND WORLD HISTORY



TODAY the signs of the times tell us that we are standing on the threshold of grave and controversial events. It seems that the entire world is in an uproar. Before our eyes, the prophecy of Jesus in reference to the events just before His second coming are being fulfilled: **“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.... For nation will rise against nation... And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows”** (Matt. 24:6-8). The present and future are of great interest for all mankind. More and more people realize that something great and decisive is about to take place; that the world is on the brink of an overwhelming crisis. The daily news is filled with catastrophes and violence of every kind. Jesus Himself prophesied that during the time of the end there would be **“... on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity...”** and **“Men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth...”** (Luke 21:25-26).

THE AMAZING PROPHECY OF THE GREAT WORLD EMPIRES

In the Bible, especially in the books of Daniel (Dan.) and in Revelation (Rev.), many events both historical and present-day are clearly prophesied. A careful study of these books helps us to see God’s purpose in the history of nations. It helps us to understand the true meaning and purpose of life and the plan of salvation for mankind through God’s Son Jesus Christ.

Over 2600 years ago, the prophet Daniel foretold the rise of the great world empires, namely **Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome,** and what is known in the present-day as **Europe**. In a dream, Daniel saw a great image whose body parts symbolized the exact sequence of those world empires: **“This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay”** (Dan. 2:32-33). Those great world empires and their unique characteristics were revealed to the prophet, this time symbolized as beasts. **“Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise...”** (Dan. 7:17), as **“... the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea”** (Dan. 7:2). Rev. 17:15 explains that **“water”** represents **“peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues”**, while **“winds”** symbolize wars (Jeremiah 4:11-16). The four winds of heaven, which strove upon the great sea, represent the terrible conquests by which those kingdoms came to power.

A UNIQUE WORLD POWER

THE PROPHET then saw another power rising in Europe: **“I was considering the horns, and there was another little horn coming up among them.”** (Dan. 7:8). This power has the following Identification Marks:

1. IT COMES UP AMONG THE 10 HORNS (Dan. 7:8)

The papacy (508 AD) was that “little horn”, which came up among the 10 Germanic tribes.

2. IT UPROOTS THREE HORNS (Dan. 7:8)

The Heruli, the Vandals and the Ostrogoths resisted the power of this “little horn” and were **“plucked out by the roots”**—in other words, completely destroyed.



3. IT IS DIFFERENT THAN THE PREVIOUS HORNS (Dan. 7:24)

The papacy was different. It consisted of a union between Church and State, where the Church was the dominating power.

4. IT IS STRONGER THAN THE OTHER HORNS (Dan. 7:20)

In fact, the papacy grew to a world power within a very short time. During “The Dark Ages,” people were forced to accept the Catholic faith (Crusades). Over centuries, even kings and emperors of Europe were forced to humbly submit to the decisions of the papacy.

5. IT IS PRESUMPTUOUS AND SPEAKS BLASPHEMY (Dan. 7:25)

“He shall even rise against the Prince of princes” (Dan. 8:25). He is **“the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God”** (2 Thessalonians, 2:3-4).

All three scriptures describe the same power that claims to be Christian, yet possesses an antichristian mind. The following quote shows in truth to what degree the papacy blasphemes God: **“On this earth we are holding the place of Almighty God”** (Encyc. Pope Leo XIII, 6-20-1894). To address the pope as “Holy Father” is blasphemy. Jesus himself warns in Matthew 23:9 **“Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.”** Despite those clear words in the Bible many popes have through the centuries claimed infallibility, which God alone possesses (Rev. 15:4), and even the claimed ability to forgive sins, which belongs to God only (Luke 5:21).

6. IT PERSECUTES THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH (Dan. 7:25)

The Crusades, the proceedings against the heretics, the torture-chambers of the Inquisition, and the burning of the heretics are a known and dark chapter of the papacy. The historian W.H. Lecky writes: **“That the church of Rome shed more innocent blood than any other institution, which ever existed on this earth, will be**





BABYLON

The head of gold and the lion (a popular Symbol of Babylon) represent the **Babylonian World Empire (608-538 BC)**. The eagle’s wings describe the speedy conquests by Nebuchadnezzar.



MEDO-PERSIA

In the year 538 BC, the dual empire of the **Medes and Persians** was established. The three ribs in the bear’s mouth represent the conquered countries of Lydia, Babylon and Egypt. The Persians were stronger than the Medes and remained in power longer. (Note: It raised up itself on one side).



GREECE

The very rapid victories (represented by the four wings) under Alexander the Great made **Greece** the World power (331 BC). After Alexander’s death the Empire was divided into 4 parts by his four generals: Thrace, Syria, Macedonia, and Egypt (Note the four heads).



THE ROMAN EMPIRE

In the year 168 BC, the **Romans** established the fourth World Empire. Because of the severity and intolerance with which they subdued other nations, this Empire was known as “The Iron Kingdom” (Note the iron legs of the image and the teeth of the beast).



EUROPE

Because of **mass migration (351-476 AD)**, the Roman Empire was broken up into 10 smaller European kingdoms (Note the 10 horns and 10 toes). The divided thriving horns and the not cleaving together even as the mixing of iron with clay of the 10 toes represents the impossibility of a lasting United Europe.



Dan. 7:4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings.

Dan. 7:5 The second was like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth.

Dan. 7:6 Another was like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird.

Dan. 7:7 The fourth beast was dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces... and it had ten horns.

Dan. 7:24 The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom.

questioned by no one that has an adequate knowledge of history... It is impossible to arrive at an accurate account of her victims (approximately 50 Million), and it is certain that no imagination is capable of comprehending their sufferings.” (*Rationalism in Europe, Vol. 2, page 32*)

7. IT INTENDS TO CHANGE TIMES AND LAW (Dan. 7:25)

The papal system actually presumed to change the law of God. It removed the **second commandment** from the Catholic catechism. The second commandment prohibits the worship of images. The fourth commandment of God, which commands us to keep holy the Biblical Sabbath (Saturday), was changed to Sunday-keeping,

a practice that originated in the pagan Sun worship. Instead of the seventh day Sabbath according to God's fourth commandment (Exodus 20:8-11; Isaiah 56:2-7), Sunday was introduced, which is an unbiblical rest day. God has never commanded the first day to be used as the day of worship and neither Jesus nor the apostles kept Sunday (Luke 4:16; Mat. 24:20; Acts 13:42-44).

8. IT REIGNS A TIME AND TIMES AND HALF A TIME (Dan. 7:25)

In the biblical measurement of time, the word “time” represents one year of 360 days. Accordingly, we find that 3 ½ times = 3 ½ years = 1260 days. A **prophetic day** stands for a **literal year** (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers

14:34). Therefore, the “little horn” will rule for 1260 years. This time period began with the decree of Justinian (the church of Rome was given the ecclesiastical power by the state) and also with the final destruction of the East Gothic Empire in the year of 538 AD. It ended in 1798 with the capture of Pope Pius VI and the declaration of Rome to be a republic by the French military under Napoleon.



THE TIME OF JUDGMENT

“BUT THE COURT SHALL BE SEATED...” (Dan. 7:26). Daniel **“watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated ... thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened”** (Dan 7:9-10). Thus was presented to the prophet's vision the great and solemn day when the characters and lives of every individual should pass in review before the Judge of all the earth.

It says, **“the books were opened”**. The prophet John explains further: **“And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books”** (Rev. 20:12). The books of record in heaven, in which the names (Luke 10:20) and the deeds (Matthew 12:36-37) of men are registered, are to determine the decision of the judgment. All secret purposes and motives appear in the unerring register, for God will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will **“reveal the counsels of the hearts”** (1 Corinthians 4:5). And He **“will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil”** (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have professed to believe in God come in review. **“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?”** (1 Peter 4:17). Christ begins the investigation with those who first lived upon the earth. Then the cases of each successive generation come into review, and He closes with the judgment of the living. Every name will be mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names will be accepted, names rejected. The law of God is the standard by which the characters and the lives of men will be tested in the judgment. The Bible declares: **“So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law [the Ten Commandments] of liberty”** (James 2:12).

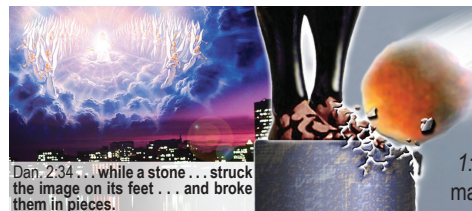
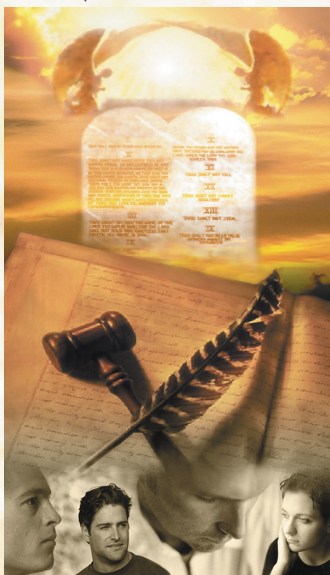
When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the Book of Life. The Lord declares: **“Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book”** (Exodus 32:33). All who have truly repented of sin (Proverbs 28:13) and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice (Acts 16:30-31) have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven. Since they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ (1 John 2:29) and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out and they will be accounted worthy of eternal life. The Lord declares by the prophet Isaiah: **“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for Mine own sake; and I will not remember your sins.”** (Isaiah 43:25). Such will take part in the resurrection of the just, because scripture says clearly: **“And come forth - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life...”** (John 5:29; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-16). Jesus declared through the prophet John: **“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name**

before My Father, and before His angels” (Rev. 3:5). This intercession of Christ for man before the throne of his Father in heaven (Hebrew 8:1) is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross (Hebrew 9:24). Jesus has opened the way to the Father's throne, and through His mediation the sincere desires of all who come to Him in faith are presented before God. **“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need”** (Hebrew 4:16). Jesus intercedes for us because of His wounded hands and bruised body, and He declares to all who would follow Him: **“My grace is sufficient for you”** (2 Corinthians 12:9). **“Take My yoke [the Ten Commandments] upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:29-30).

As soon as our conscience awakens through the working of the Holy Spirit, we realize the power, the guilt, and the misery of sin, and we come to the point where we detest it. It will occur to us that sin has separated us from God, and that we are in bondage under the power of the evil one. The more we try to flee from sin, the more we realize our inability. Our motives and our hearts are polluted. We realize that our life is filled with selfishness and sin; we begin to desire forgiveness, purity, and freedom. What can we do in order to come into harmony with God? We need confidence, heaven's forgiveness, peace and love in our hearts. Money, power or wisdom cannot buy these things, however, God offers them as a free gift of grace **“...without money and without price”** (Isaiah 55:1). They are ours, if we reach out and take hold of them. Thus saith the Lord: **“...though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow”** (Isaiah 1:18). **“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit”** (Ezekiel 36:26). We have acknowledged our sins, and we are determined to start a new life with God. Now we may come to Him and ask Him to erase our sins and give us a new heart. **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

“He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy” (1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13). We can be sure that He will do it, because He promised it. This is what Christ taught while on earth, that the gift promised by God belongs to us as soon as we accept it by faith. We cannot atone for our past sins, we cannot change our hearts and we cannot gain salvation by our own efforts (Jeremiah 13:23; Ephesians 2:8). But God promises that He will do these things for us through Christ. We must believe the promise; we must acknowledge our sins, surrender to God and serve Him. As soon as we do this, He will fulfill His promise to us. Jesus will be your advocate and intercede for you. **“And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world”** (1 John 2:1-2).



Dan. 2:34... while a stone... struck the image on its feet... and broke them in pieces.

THE LAST MESSAGE OF MERCY

THE PROPHET Daniel saw that at a time when man is trying to unite the European Nations and the world is being increasingly visited by catastrophes and wars, a great stone will hit the image upon his feet and completely destroy it. This stone represents the **Coming of Jesus Christ** (Dan 2:34-35, 44; Psalm 18:32). Christ will come again soon in the clouds of heaven with his angels, visible to all mankind (Rev 1:7). In order to prepare mankind for this event and to help them to stand in the judgment, God, in His love, is warning mankind with a last message of mercy found in *Revelation 14:6-12*.



THE FIRST ANGEL'S MESSAGE

FIRST—"FEAR GOD and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water" (Rev. 14:6-7).

The first angel's message urges us to consider that the judgment is taking place now in heaven, because the present time, namely after 1798 and before the return of Christ, coincides with the period in which the judgment is taking place. Furthermore, mankind is being called upon to worship God, the Creator of heaven and earth. Yet despite this call, many people still believe in the unproven theory of evolution. God lets man know that the beauty and the amazing order and laws of nature were created by Him and did not "evolve" by accident (see Romans 1:20-21). He reminds man that He is the dispenser of all gifts and He deserves our love and worship. True love and worship mean keeping His law [Ten Commandments as recorded in Exodus 20:1-17] "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments" and "One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination" (1 John 5:3; Proverbs 28:9). To give glory to God means to reflect His character in our own. God's character is revealed to man in His law.



GOD'S SEAL

The fourth of the Ten Commandment points directly to God as the creator: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy... For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:8-11). This commandment is the only one of the ten giving the name, the title, and the territory of Him by whose authority the law was given. Thus it contains "God's seal".

The Sabbath was made for mankind in all ages because it was instituted at Creation (Genesis 2:1-3). This day is to remind us again and again to think on our Creator with thanksgiving and reverence.

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy". The observance of the Sabbath is a sign of loyalty toward the true God. "Moreover I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them"

(Ezekiel 20:20; Isaiah 56:2; Exodus 31:13-17).

Since the beginning of the world the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, has always been kept on Saturday. Jesus Himself explains the immutability of the Ten Commandments: "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled." (Matthew 5:17-18).

THE SECOND ANGEL'S MESSAGE

SECOND—"BABYLON IS FALLEN, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Rev. 14:8).

The term "Babylon" is derived from "Babel" and signifies confusion. It is employed in Scripture to designate the various forms of false or apostate religion.

In Revelation 17:4-6, Babylon is represented as a harlot. In the Bible, a wicked woman is a figure of an apostate church (Jeremiah 3:20; Ezekiel 16:35). This harlot of Revelation 17 is "arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness... And on her forehead a name was written: **Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots**". Says the prophet: "I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus". Babylon is further declared to be "that great city (sitting on seven hills, verse 9) which reigns over the kings of the earth" (Rev. 17:18).



MYSTERIOUS BABYLON

The power described here is none other than **papal Rome**, the city of seven hills. Purple and scarlet are the representative colors of the cardinals and bishops. Gold, precious stones and pearls vividly picture the immense wealth of the papacy. Of no other power could it have been adequately stated that she was "drunk with the blood of the saints" as of this church, which persecuted the followers of Christ in such a gruesome manner (see pages 1 and 2). The great sin of which Babylon is guilty is that "the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication".



The stunning cup which she offers to the world represents false teachings, such as the mass, the immortality of the soul, eternal hellfire, the adoration of the Virgin Mary and Sunday sacredness. These and other entirely unbiblical teachings she offers to the world and the churches, with their destructive influence.

The present warning, "Babylon is fallen", applies to all religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. It cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. Babylon is said to be "the mother of harlots".

Her daughters symbolize churches that cling to her doctrines (for example, Sunday sacredness) and follow her example. Therefore, the term Babylon (confusion) may be appropriately applied to these churches. Despite the spiritual darkness and the separation from God, which exists in these churches, the majority of the true followers of Christ are still in their community. All children of God who are still found in Babylon will take to heart the call of the angel "Babylon is fallen" and "Come out of her, my people", and will finally leave the apostate churches.

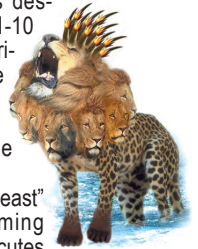
THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

THIRD—"IF ANYONE WORSHIPS the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God..." (Rev. 14:9-10).

In order to understand this message, we must decode the symbols being used.

THE BEAST

The beast here mentioned is described earlier in Revelation 13:1-10 as "like a leopard". A comparison between this "beast" and the "little horn" in Daniel 7 (see also p. 1-2) shows clearly that we are here dealing with the same power, namely, the papacy.



Just like the "little horn", the "beast" also represents a blaspheming power (Rev. 13:6) which persecutes the Christians (Rev. 13:7) and evolves out of pagan Rome (Rev. 13:2), ruling for 1260 years (Rev. 13:5). After this time period she was to be relieved of her power by a "deadly wound" (Rev. 13:3,10; see page 2, under item # 8).

But this "deadly wound" was to be healed (Rev. 13:3). This healing of the papacy began in the year of 1929 with the signing of the Lateran treaties. At that time the Vatican received the property, generous financial support, and all diplomatic rights of a sovereign State. Through their international diplomacy and financial power the Vatican has again gained considerable power and influence on a worldwide scope. The "deadly wound" is being healed.



Before we consider the "image of the beast" and his "mark", we must consider another "beast power" described in Revelation 13.

THE SECOND BEAST

The prophet "...saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb..." (Rev. 13:11).

While the previous beast came out of the "sea" of "nations and tongues" (Rev. 17:15), this beast was "coming up out of the earth". Instead of overthrowing other powers to establish itself, the nation represented here must arise and grow up gradually and peacefully. It could not, then, arise among the crowded and struggling nationalities of Europe. It must be sought in the western continent. Only one nation was rising into power at the time of the papacy's loss of supremacy in 1798 - this prophecy points directly to the United States of America!

The lamb like horns indicated youth, innocence, and gentleness, fitly representing the original character of the USA. Civil and religious liberty (the two "horns") were the foundations of this nation. The European Christians, who were persecuted by the papacy, fled



by the thousands to the "New World", America. This was the birth of the USA. But the beast with "lamb like horns" "spoke like a dragon". "And he exercises all the authority of the first beast (papacy) in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast... telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast..." (Rev. 13:11-14).

The lamb-like horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contrast between the professions and the practice of the nation thus represented. The "speaking" of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. By such action it will contradict those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy. The prediction that it will speak "like a dragon" and exercise "all the authority of the first beast" plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution (Rev. 12:13,17) that was manifested



by the first beast (papacy). The statement that the beast with the two horns "causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast"

indicates that the authority of this nation (USA) is to be exercised in enforcing obedience, which will give homage to the papacy. Today we observe how the USA and the Vatican are working more closely together in order to make their influence more prominent.

THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST

When the early church departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepted pagan rites and customs, she became corrupted and lost the Spirit and power of God. In order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of heresy. In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.

It was apostasy that led the early church to seek the aid of the civil government, and this prepared the

way for the development of the papacy, the "beast". Said Paul: "There shall come a falling away, ... and that man of sin be revealed..." (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). In the same way will the obvious apostasy in the protestant churches of today clear the way to prepare for the image to the beast.

During the past decades the ecumenical efforts of the protestant churches have increased to the extent that "unity for any price" is being pursued at the expense of biblical truth. In October 1999, by signing the "Joint Declaration" with the Vatican, the Lutheran World Federation declared the Reformation null and void. The papacy and ecumenical movement is therefore nothing else than the great spiritual apostasy prophesied by Paul in 2 Thessalonians.

When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, influence the state to enforce their decrees and sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an "image" of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon those who refuse to cooperate will be the inevitable result.

The image to the beast, consequently, represents apostate Protestantism that seeks the support of the state to enforce their doctrines.

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

The beast with the two horns (USA) "causes all... to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Rev. 13:16-17).

"Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666" (Rev. 13:18).

VICARIUS FILII DEI			
V	.....5	F	.....0
I	.....1	E	.....0
C	.....100	L	.....50
A	.....0	I	.....1
R	.....0	I	.....1
	.....1		.....1
U	.....5		.....53
S	.....0		.....
	112		666

The man that stands at the top of the papal (anti-christian) hierarchy is none other than the pope. His official title is "VICARIUS FILII DEI" meaning "Rep-

resentative of the Son of God" (Our Sunday Visitor 4-18-1915). In Latin some letters have a numerical value. The corresponding numerical values of this official title, when added, show the number of the beast to be 666.

While one group of people will accept the mark of the beast and worship the image to the beast, another group is also described: "... here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." (Rev. 14:12). Consequently, the difference between the true and false worship has to do with the keeping of the commandments of God. On one side is the seal of God, meaning Saturday - the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. Opposite stands the mark of the beast, namely, Sunday sacredness. The papacy considers it as her "mark of authority" because in the year 364 AD she changed the Sabbath to Sunday (The Convert's Catechism, P. Geiermann). Whoever knowingly keeps the commandments as changed by the papacy honors this antichristian system placing himself in opposition to God.

However, many true Christians of various denominations keep Sunday, thinking that they honor the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. God accepts their sincere intention and honesty, because "these times of ignorance God overlooked" (Acts 17:30). However, when Sunday observance in the already developing New World Order, originating in America, is enforced by law - after the world



has been instructed in reference to our responsibility to the true Sabbath - then all who knowingly transgress God's law will at that time receive the mark of the beast. They can no longer expect God's grace, but await His vengeance, and the punishment of eternal death (Rev. 14:9-11). The ultimate control of man has been planned for years by the World Council of Churches and leading governments of the world and the UN in New York. The goal is to create a common unbiblical "Sunday Worship Day" as envisioned by the papacy and the ecumenical movement. The many visits by the pope to governments, his encyclicals, and his general worldwide efforts all confirm this plan.

WHAT IS YOUR DECISION?

THE EVENTS and catastrophes taking place in the present world will increase until the return of Christ. This sinful world and her evil works will pass away, but God "will have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth". "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (1 Timothy 2:4; John 3:16).

Contrary to the hopelessness of this world, God promises a glorious future for those that have been loyal to God here on earth: "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind". "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away ... Behold, I make all things new" (Isaiah 65:17; Rev. 21:4-5). These words not only give hope for the future, but they give present peace and security here.

The judgment is now passing in heaven. Soon - none know how soon - their case will be considered. Therefore, it is essential now that every soul take the warning to heart: "Today if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts" (Hebrew 3:7-8). When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death. Probation for this world is suddenly ending shortly before Jesus Christ's appearance in the clouds of heaven.

Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary for your sins, in order to open for you the path into the new glorious future. Even today you may come to Him in prayer, confess your sins and start a new life in obedience to His commandments. Then Christ will be your Intercessor in the judgment!

