

Understanding Revelation – Topic 26

# **The three powers which will lead the world to Armageddon**

**An exposition of Revelation Chapter 16:13-16**

## Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Spiritism.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The beast .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The dragon.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Identity of the dragon.....	5
Significance of the ten horns .....	5
Further evidence of the dragon's composition .....	8
Influence of the occult .....	8
<b>The false prophet .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Parallels between the image to the beast and the false prophet.....	9
Influence of the occult .....	10
Parallels between <i>The Great Controversy</i> and Revelation 16:13-14.....	11
<b>Current movements towards unity .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Armageddon.....	14
<b>Conclusion.....</b>	<b>15</b>
The importance of watchfulness.....	16
<b>Appendices.....</b>	<b>18</b>
Appendix A – Satans efforts against God's people.....	18
Appendix B - The Dragon as Spiritism.....	18
Appendix C - Does the dragon represent paganism?.....	19
Appendix D - Kings, rulers and governors.....	19
Appendix E - Testimony of the author.....	20
Appendix F – Spiritism versus Christ and His people.....	21
<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>22</b>

© COPYRIGHT 2012

This work is subject to international copyright legislation. It may be copied or printed for personal use.  
It cannot be published in any other format or sold without the permission of the author.

## Introduction

One thing that Scripture is certain about is the fact that sin and rebellion will come to an end. After six thousand years of human history the greatest conflict ever known will reach its climax. The protagonist is Christ and His people set against the antagonist Satan and his supporters - the enemies of God. This conflict will reach its climax just prior the Second Advent of Christ.

Today we see evil increasing indicating that the conflict between good and evil is intensifying. John the Revelator declared:

*Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time. Revelation 12:12*

The closer we come to the climax of earth's history, the more frenzied Satan's efforts will become to bring the world to ruin (see Appendix A).

The climax we are referring to is known as *Armageddon* in Scripture. Up until the Second Advent, all proper nouns in the book of Revelation have a symbolic application. Consequently Armageddon is symbolic of the last battle between good and evil. It is featured in the sixth plague.

## Spiritism

When we study the seven last plagues it is evident that the sixth plague prepares the way for Babylon's destruction and reveals who initiates Armageddon while the seventh plague brings about the destruction of Babylon.<sup>1</sup>

***And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.<sup>16</sup> And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. Revelation 16:13 -14, 16***

In the professedly Christian world there is a tremendous revival of the powers of the Occult. This revival commenced in 1848 with the manifestation of modern Spiritualism (or Spiritism). Under various guises this deceptive power has rapidly spread throughout the western world and is infiltrating every strata of society.

According to the prediction, the *spirits of devils* are to work through three powers – organizations - symbolized by *the dragon, the beast and the false prophet*. The three unclean spirits come *out of the mouth* of each of these three powers, indicating that they must first have taken possession of them. These entities then become the mediums of Satan used to convince and unite the world against God.

It is important to correctly interpret these three symbols so that we will recognize the fulfillment of this prophecy.

---

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 16:19

## The beast

First we will examine the central power symbolised by *the beast*. We will discover this organization is the earthly leader at the time of Armageddon. The beast is fully described in Revelation 13:1-10 and is clearly identified as the Papacy.<sup>2</sup> This means that *the spirits of devils* will have taken possession of the Papacy and will speak and work through this agency to influence the rest of the world to unite against God and His people.

There is ample evidence to demonstrate that for a considerable period of time, the powers of Spiritism have resided within the Papacy.

*Not only does the Roman Catholic Church hold festivals to honour the departed spirits of loved ones, but it claims to have within the church, members who claim to receive messages from the dead. Instead of calling this practice of the occult, necromancy, the Roman Catholic Church calls it mysticism. And instead of calling the people who perform this abomination mediums, they are called 'mystics'.<sup>3</sup>*

Roman Catholicism is renowned for its supposed miracles and for purported communications from departed saints. And it is true that some of the miracles the Church claims are inexplicable from a human point of view. The miracles at Lourdes, that great Catholic centre of Mariolatry, testify to a supernatural power as even impartial, non-religious doctors have affirmed that these miracles occur.

Lourdes is impressive. Anyone who is unaware of the warnings of Scripture in regard to the deceptive and alluring influence of evil spirits would be readily convinced that the power of "God" is present there. These miracles confirm in the minds of Catholics that God is blessing the Catholic Church while also convincing many Protestants similarly. The miracles in the Church of Rome declare to the unsuspecting world that God is blessing the Catholic Church.

Further evidence that Spiritism is in the Catholic Church is the presence of the so-called gift of tongues. It has been indisputably proven that tongue-speaking is a counterfeit of the true gift. It is the manifestation of evil spirits impersonating the Holy Spirit. Millions of Catholics and non-Catholics are bewitched by this phenomenon.

Further evidence that the Papacy is under the influence of Spiritism is the revelation that the Pope is the high priest of witchcraft. Witchcraft originated in ancient Babylon and is deeply satanic. The evidence of this is the use of the crooked crucifix by popes. This is the insignia of witchcraft.

Let it be clearly understood that, while Scripture exposes the Catholic system, it also reveals that many of God's true people are in the Church of Rome and that God will ultimately call them out.

*...Come out of her my people... Revelation 18:4*

Although it is obvious that the Church of Rome is under the influence of occult powers, this is evidenced in such a way as to deceive the unwary.

---

<sup>2</sup> A.P. Cooke, *Antichrist 666*, (Sydney: Self-published, 1985),

<sup>3</sup> R.A. Anderson, *The Antichrist 666*, ed., (Washington DC: Review and Herald Publishing Assoc, 1980),

The influence of evil spirits in the Church of Rome will become even more pronounced in the future. The beast (the Papacy) is the central power through which the spiritual forces of Satan will work in the last days to unite the world against God.

## The dragon

### Identity of the dragon

The next power is called *the dragon*. There has been much confusion in identifying the dragon. The view of some is that the idea that the dragon represents Spiritism cannot be upheld from Scripture. This interpretation is based on a misunderstanding of an isolated statement in the book *The Great Controversy*.<sup>4</sup> (See Appendix B).

The dragon is first introduced in Revelation Chapter 12, where in verses 3 and 4 a woman is pictured, representing the Church of God. This woman is described as giving birth to a man child - Jesus. A great red dragon stands before the woman waiting to devour her child as soon as it is born. Primarily the dragon here is Satan.

*...that old serpent called the devil and Satan. Revelation 12:9*

Some have held that the dragon primarily represents *paganism*, but this view cannot be sustained either (see Appendix C). History tells us that the power used by Satan to try and destroy Jesus at his birth was Imperial Rome under the Caesars. It was Herod the Great, king of Judea, the Roman governor, who endeavored to destroy the Christ child. This resulted in the killing of the babes of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16). However as one author correctly comments:

*While the dragon primarily represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome.*<sup>5</sup>

The dragon, or serpent power, of Revelation Chapter 12, continues down through the Christian era to the last days. It must therefore symbolise more than just pagan Rome.

In prophecy a beast represents a political power (Daniel 7:17), so the Dragon (a type of beast) must represent political powers that are used by Satan to oppose the cause of God.

Satan always works through earthly agencies such as political powers, religious organizations, secret societies and the like. He used political powers to oppose God's people after the fall of pagan Rome. Rome's territory was occupied by the Gothic barbarians who formed themselves into the ten kingdoms of Western Europe. At various times, most of these European political powers were effective agents of Satan in opposing God's people.

### Significance of the ten horns

In Revelation 12:3 the dragon is described as having *ten horns*. These initially represent the ten divisions of Western Rome (Daniel 7:24). Whenever one reads of the ten horns in Daniel or Revelation they always represent (at least initially) the ten kingdoms of

---

<sup>4</sup> Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, (Mountain View, CA.: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1898), 588 (see Appendix C).

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, ed., 438.

Western Europe. Thus these original kingdoms of Western Europe were clearly a component of the dragon power.

The same author quoted above lays down a principle as to what constitutes the dragon power.

*Kings and rulers and governors have placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist, and are represented as the dragon who goes to make war with the saints.*<sup>6</sup>

If the dragon of Revelation 12:3-4 represented pagan Rome and in Revelation 12:4-16 represented the ten kingdoms of Western Europe, then the dragon of the end time in Revelation 12:17 must represent the *kings, rulers and governors (who) have placed themselves under the brand of antichrist*. We already know that the earthly antichrist is the Papacy. Therefore the dragon of Revelation 12:17 represents the political powers who in the last days, under the direction of the Papacy, make war on God's people.<sup>7</sup> (See Appendix D)

Revelation Chapter 17 reveals particular political powers which could fulfill the description of the dragon in the last days. Notice this prediction concerning the final conflict.

*The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful. Revelation 17:12-14*

These ten horns play their part in the end time, when they give their strength and power to the beast, the Papacy. In doing this they place upon themselves the brand of antichrist and so could be represented as the dragon. It is important therefore to identify them.

Revelation Chapter 17 is a repetition and enlargement of Revelation Chapter 16 - especially the portion dealing with the punishment of Babylon. In that the dragon is one of the agencies through which the powers of the occult, or Spiritism, are to work, whoever is represented by the ten horns or ten kingdoms must comprise the dragon.

While the ten horns initially were the ten kingdoms of Western Europe, Scripture indicates that the predictions of the end-time have a global application.

*...and all the world marveled and followed the beast. Revelation 13:3*

*And all who dwell on the earth will worship him... Revelation 13:8*

*... to every nation, tribe, tongue and people. Revelation 14:6-7*

*... the kings of the earth and of the whole world.... Revelation 16:14*

*... the kings of the earth... the inhabitants of the earth.... Revelation 17:2*

*... peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues. Revelation 17:15*

---

<sup>6</sup> Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, ed., 3rd ed., (Boise, ID.: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1962), 39.

<sup>7</sup> See Appendix 3 for further details rejecting the view that the dragon represents Spiritism.

... the earth was illuminated with his glory. Revelation 18:1

... all nations... Revelation 18:3

... the merchants of the earth... Revelation 18:11

... the kings of the earth... Revelation 18:9

... all who were slain on the earth. Revelation 18:24

Therefore in applying the symbol of the ten horns in the end-time, we suggest that these should be applied in a global setting. There are some clues. Significant evidence has emerged which confirms that the New World Order will take the form of ten divisions of the nations. In 1974 the Club of Rome, which directs the formation of the New World Order, issued a global map depicting these ten divisions which will embrace the whole of the political world. The divisions were initially called *kingdoms* by the Club of Rome, but because Bible believers recognized this as a fulfillment of Revelation 17, the Club of Rome changed this term to *regions*

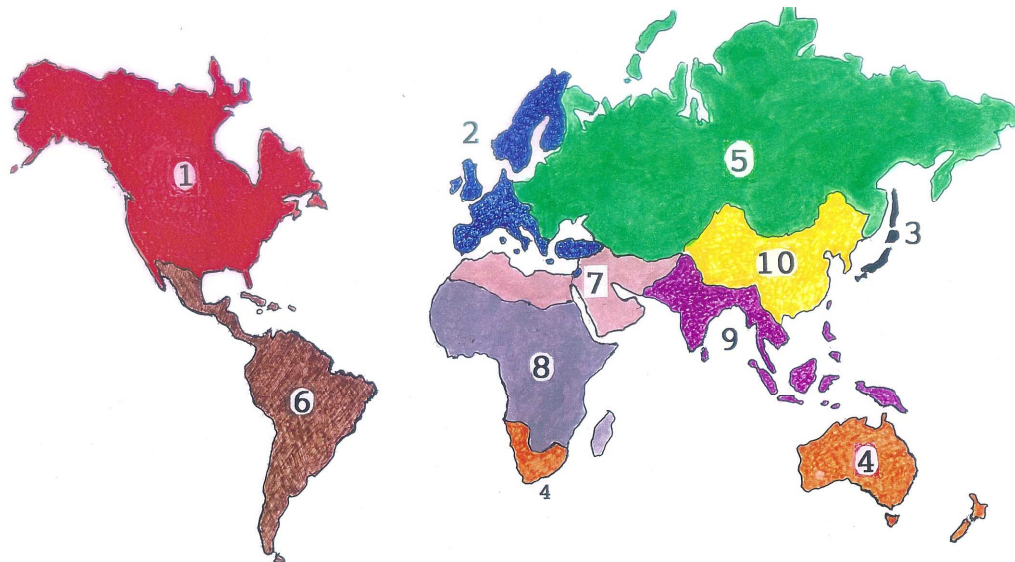


Figure 1: Map showing the planned ten political-economic regions of the New World Order

The prediction of Revelation Chapter 17, clearly states that the ten political entities represented by *the ten horns* will unite in the support of the Papacy.

*These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.*  
Revelation 17:13

Already we have witnessed movements toward co-operation among the ten regions mentioned above. The influence of the United Nations Organization is increasingly apparent. While complete union may not eventuate, Scripture declares that there will be unity in support of the Papacy.

## Further evidence of the dragon's composition

Further evidence that the political powers mentioned above could comprise the dragon entity, is given in Revelation Chapter 13.

*Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. Revelation 13:11-12*

These verses predict that the United States of America, when it compels the earth to worship the Papacy, speaks as a *dragon*. In doing this the USA *places itself under the brand of antichrist*. Because the USA, as the sole remaining super power, is increasingly exerting pressure upon the nations to conform to her policy, it is not difficult to envisage how she will pressure the rest of the world to accept papal policy. As one commentator states:

*In the Book of Revelation, under the symbols of a great red dragon, a leopard-like beast and a beast with lamblike horns are brought to view, those earthly governments which are especially engaged in trampling upon God's law and persecuting His people.<sup>8</sup>*

The *earthly governments* that are represented by the dragon in the end-time are the *kings, rulers and governors* of the world who *place themselves under the brand of the antichrist*.

## Influence of the occult

According to the prediction of Revelation Chapter 16, *out of the mouth of the dragon* emerge the bewitching powers of Spiritism. This could mean that the political powers of the world are to fall under the control of evil Spirits. There are concrete examples of how the forces of the occult have influenced some political powers in the past.

In the interval between the two world wars, the people of Germany became very involved in the practice of witchcraft. It has been suggested that it was this influence that prepared the populace for the reception of Nazism, by which Adolph Hitler was able to seize control of the German nation.<sup>9</sup>

Documentary evidence shows that during World War II both Mussolini and Hitler were influenced by the occult. Leading spiritists of Europe have acknowledged that Hitler was deeply involved in the occult and that he spent many hours of the night in communication with unseen powers. In addition, Mussolini did nothing of importance without first consulting his astrologer.

According to the famous American medium Jean Dixon, during World War II Franklin D. Roosevelt spent many hours, along with his war chiefs, in contact with occult powers to obtain direction for the conduct of the war. According to the "Time" magazine dated 16 May 1988, Ronald and Nancy Reagan were deeply involved in astrology and many of Reagan's policies were guided by the stars. Nancy Reagan planned almost all presidential travel, press conferences, and even the president's cancer surgery, based on information she was receiving from her astrologer.

---

<sup>8</sup> Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, ed., 276, (1886 edition).

<sup>9</sup> Alton Blakeslee, "Perils in Occult", *Sydney Sun*, 15 August 1977.



Today witchcraft, sorcery, astrology and numerous other forms of the occult have permeated the Western world, preparing the ground for the fulfillment of Revelation 16:13-14.

## The false prophet

The third power through which *the spirits of devils* are to work, is symbolized as *the false prophet*. A false prophet is one who claims to be a spokesman for God, yet is not a faithful witness. A false prophet claims to receive messages from God, but in reality does not act as an intermediary between God and man. False prophets relay untrue messages which are from a source other than God.

In Revelation Chapter 16 the *false prophet* is a symbol of apostate Protestantism. Once the Protestant churches were God's spokespeople, proclaiming His message to the world. Today they are in apostasy, yet they still pose as God's spokesmen.

The Revelator appears to equate the false prophet with the *image to the beast*. In Revelation Chapter 19, where the false prophet is described, it will be seen that his details correspond with the description of the image to the beast of Revelation 13:12-17.

*The image to the beast* will be comprised of the Protestant churches of America united with the American political powers. When this union eventuates, one can readily understand how *the false prophet* and *the image to the beast* could be deemed identical.<sup>10</sup>

## Parallels between the image to the beast and the false prophet

Revelation 13 (image to the beast)	Revelation 19 (false prophet)
v12 he compels them... to worship the first beast (Papacy)	v19 He is with the beast (the Papacy)
v14 signs he did <i>in sight of the beast</i> (Papacy)	v20 worked miracles <i>in sight of the beast</i> (Papacy)
v14 he deceives by the signs which he did... causes all to receive a mark (v16)	v20 by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast
v14 to make an image to the beast	v20 those who worshipped his image.

The following points may make these parallels a little clearer:

1. The false prophet is one who once genuinely spoke for God yet has since become apostate but continues to pose as a spokesman for God. Balaam, the false prophet of Numbers Chapters 22-24 can be seen as typical of the false prophet of Revelation.

---

<sup>10</sup> See Topic 20, A.P. Cooke, *When Religious Persecution Returns*, ed., 2nd ed., (Sydney: Self-published, 2010),.

2. The false prophet, the image to the beast, is connected with the second beast of Revelation Chapter 13 (the USA) when it compels obedience to the Papacy. It is therefore a religious entity in league with civil powers (Revelation 13:11-14, 16).
3. The false prophet will support the Papacy and deceive the people into accepting papal worship in the form of the mark of the beast (Revelation 19:20).

The only religio-political power which fulfils the above specifications is the American Protestant churches, as a group, when they finally unite and ally themselves with the civil power of the USA.<sup>11</sup>

In Revelation Chapter 19, where the final conflict of Armageddon is symbolized, *the false prophet* is deeply involved:

*And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. Revelation 19:19-20*

Some claim that the false prophet is the USA, but the false prophet is a religious entity.

### **Influence of the occult**

As stated previously, the image to the beast, the false prophet, will be formed when apostate Protestants unite with civil powers to enact religious laws which will violate conscience.<sup>12</sup> In effect this union will constitute *another* papacy - hence the term *image to the beast*. It follows then that if *the spirits of devils* are to come out of the mouth of the *false prophet*, they must first enter into the non-Catholic, Protestant churches and take control.

Spiritism has a far greater degree of influence in the Protestant churches than is generally realized. For many decades, their leaders have demonstrated a favorable attitude towards Spiritism. This is to be expected when the majority of the clergy cling to the doctrine of the immortality of the soul, upon which Spiritism is based. (See Appendix E).

A striking example of the infiltration of Spiritism into Protestantism is the charismatic movement. Hundreds of thousands of sincere people are led to believe that they receive the Holy Spirit by purportedly speaking in tongues. The evidence, however, shows that the power involved in this movement is a form of Spiritism - an impersonation of the Holy Spirit.<sup>13</sup>

The charismatic movement is pervading both Protestant and Catholic Churches. It has stated that its aim is to unify all Christians and lead them towards Rome. Revelation Chapter 16 predicts this outcome. *The spirits of devils will gather (or unite) the whole world*. We will witness prolific manifestations of Spiritism in the future within the non-Catholic churches as well as amongst the political leadership of the world.

---

<sup>11</sup> F.D. Nichol, ed. *Seventh-Day Adventist Bible Commentary* (Washington DC: Review and Herald Publishing Assn, 1957). 7:982.

<sup>12</sup> A.P. Cooke, *When Religious Persecution Returns*, ed.,

<sup>13</sup> ?

The following statement from the book *The Great Controversy* describes the order in which the three powers - the dragon, beast, and false prophet - unite with Spiritism.

*The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of Spiritualism; they (Protestants and Spiritualism) will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power (Papacy); and under the influence of this threefold union, this country (USA) will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.*<sup>14</sup>

In the above statement, four powers are mentioned - the same powers as those featured in Revelation 16:13 - Spiritism, the dragon, the beast and the false prophet. The statement above reveals how the coming union of these four powers will eventuate.

### Parallels between *The Great Controversy* and Revelation 16:13-14

Great Controversy	Revelation 16:13-14
1. The Protestants of the USA take the initiative.	They will form the <i>false prophet</i> .
2. The Protestants in the USA unite with spiritualism.	Spiritualism is represented by <i>the three unclean spirits</i>
3. Protestantism and Spiritism then unite with the Roman power.	The Roman power is the Papacy – <i>the beast</i>
4. The three powers above, in union, then influence <i>this country</i> (USA) to follow in the steps of Rome (the anti-christ).	The USA in doing this places <i>itself under the brand of the anti-christ</i> and becomes a part of <i>the dragon</i> . As the leader of the world the USA will direct the world to follow suit. By this the other powers come <i>under the brand of antichrist</i> and thus become a part of the dragon.
5. There will be a fourfold union of Spiritism, Protestantism and Romanism with...	<i>... the kings of the earth and of the whole world.</i>

*And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. <sup>14</sup>For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Revelation 16:13-14*

Revelation 16:13-14 makes it clear that after Spiritism unites with and takes possession of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet, these four then combine to deceive the whole of mankind and to unite them against God. (The word *gather* in the Greek also

<sup>14</sup> Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, ed., 624.

means *unite*.) This passage also reveals how this is will be accomplished. (See Appendix D for comments on *kings, rulers and governors, and the kings of the earth*).

The world has always been divided politically, racially and religiously. Atheism predominates in the intellectual world. Millions upon millions follow Eastern religions and Islam. Much of the Western world is avowedly secular. Given the antagonism and conflict between ethnic, religious and political entities around the globe, this level of unity would appear to be an impossible proposition. Yet the prediction is clear.

*...the kings of the earth and of the whole world ... gather (or unite) them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Revelation 16:14 (See Appendix F)*

The union of these diverse entities will be accomplished by the working of miracles. Evil spirits (the occult) will work and speak through Satan's three agents - the dragon, the beast and the false prophet, to perform astounding miracles. All opposition will be broken down. Humankind will be convinced that papal policy is of God. Only God's true people will be aware of the deception. In His Second Advent sermon in Matthew Chapter 24, Jesus warned of these tremendous deceptions:

*For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. Matthew 24:24-25*

This is a very clear warning that these signs and wonders will be so overpowering that they will almost deceive God's very own elect. Some teach that the elect are the Jews. The New Testament teaches that the elect are true born-again Christians (1 Peter 2:9). Revelation Chapter 13 also predicts amazing miracles that will be performed to produce the desired effect upon the people of the USA. In describing how the USA brings about the formation of *the image to the beast*, it states:

*He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13*

*Fire from heaven* reminds us of Elijah, who was given power to bring down literal fire from heaven, convincing all that he was of the true God. In the last days the fire from heaven will probably be a counterfeit. It seems that the powers of the occult will manipulate the elements and cause fire or lightning to flash from the heavens in such a way that the world will be convinced that its leadership is inspired of God. Even the most secular person or the most fanatical religionist could have little resistance in the face of such overpowering delusions. The author of *The Great Controversy* describes the situation as follows:

*Fearful sights of a supernatural character will soon be revealed in the heavens, in token of the power of miracle-working demons. The spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them in deception, and urge them on to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of heaven. By these agencies, rulers and subjects will be alike deceived.<sup>15</sup>*

---

<sup>15</sup> Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, ed.,624.

Again

*The enemy is preparing to deceive the whole world by his miracle-working power.*<sup>16</sup>

## Current movements towards unity

Today in the secular world we are witnessing movements of all kinds toward unity. Labour unions are still iconic examples of the power of unity. In the commercial world we are seeing major mergers while in the economic world nations are uniting into blocs. In the financial world there is an increasing monopoly and control by the big banks. The recent financial crisis has resulted in a further concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few along with the erosion of middle class wealth and the impoverishment of a large segment of the populace.<sup>17</sup>

In the religious world there are significant movements towards unity, not only in the professedly Christian world. The Church of Rome uses the term *pandeism* to describe her current agenda - of bringing under her domination the non-Christian religions of the world. Rome will finally succeed in this strategy, because the prediction says, *all the world wondered after the beast* (Revelation 13:3).

In the political world there is an apparent antithesis to unity. However if the Papacy is to lead the world it means that we will see great changes in the many divisive forces. A form of political world union is coming. In recent years new movements have risen with the avowed aim of bringing about world government. A quick web search on the topic *New World Order* will reveal this. Dr. Alberto Rivera, a disaffected former Jesuit, in revealing the aims of the Jesuits, has published a diagram depicting the various organizations which are agents of Rome in bringing about world government.<sup>18</sup> The following is based on that diagram.

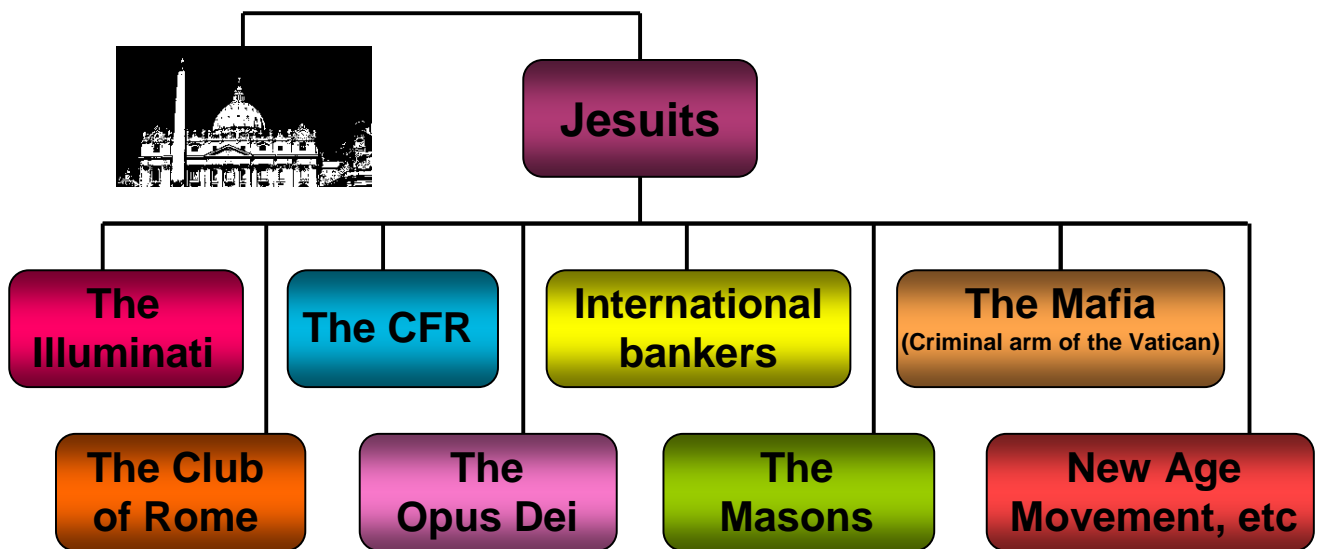
---

<sup>16</sup> Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, ed., (Washington DC: Review and Herald Publishing Assoc, 1958), 2:21.

<sup>17</sup> See Reuters, [http://www.cnbc.com/id/45013499/Vatican\\_Calls\\_for\\_Central\\_World\\_Bank\\_to\\_Be\\_Set\\_Up](http://www.cnbc.com/id/45013499/Vatican_Calls_for_Central_World_Bank_to_Be_Set_Up), accessed 20-11-2011.

<sup>18</sup> A.P. Cooke, *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, (Sydney: Self-published, 1985),

<sup>15</sup> Jack T. Chick., *The Crusaders*, ed., (Ontario, CA: Chick Publications, 1978), Volume 16.



*The Catholic Church is the biggest financial power, wealth accumulator and property owner in existence. She is a greater possessor of material riches than any other single institution, corporation, bank, giant trust, government or state of the whole globe. The pope as the visible ruler of this immense amassment of wealth is consequently the richest individual of the twentieth century. No one can realistically assess how much he is worth in terms of billions of dollars.<sup>19</sup>*

## Armageddon

The plans now in place for world government will come to fruition, as envisaged in the following statement.

*There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces.... In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be united, in opposition to God's people, all the corrupt powers that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah.<sup>20</sup>*

This means that all those who are not loyal to God's law and who do not genuinely belong to Christ, will be united together against God and His people. There will be only two sides in the last great conflict. One side - the majority - is classified as worshippers of the beast.

*All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.  
Revelation 13:8*

On the other side - the minority - are those who worship the Lamb.

*Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:12*

<sup>19</sup> Avro Manhattan, *The Vatican Billions*, (Los Angeles: Chick Publications, 1983),

<sup>20</sup> F.D. Nichol, *Ibid*, Vol 7:982.

This is the scenario for Armageddon, the great finale of the conflict between Christ and Satan, between the church of God and her enemies. The Revelator declares of those on the first side:

*These will make war with the Lamb... Revelation 17:14.*

*And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Revelation 12:17*

In the impending battle of Armageddon the enemies of God *make war with the Lamb* by attacking His people, for Jesus said:

*Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me. Matthew 25:40*

In the Greek the word for *war* is the same as the word for *battle*. It appears that the battle of Armageddon begins with the attempt to destroy the people of God.

*The world is filled with storm and war and variance. Yet under one head, the papal power, the people will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses.<sup>21</sup>*

This statement indicates that while the world will be united in attacking the saints of God, at the same time there will be continual tension among the various groups. However, even if this tension should lead to military conflict, it is important to note that this conflict will not comprise any part of the battle of Armageddon.

The same author states

*Two great opposing powers are revealed in the last great battle. On one side stands the Creator of heaven and earth. All on His side bear His signet. They are obedient to His commands. On the other side stands the Prince of darkness, with those who have chosen apostasy and rebellion.<sup>22</sup>*

This is the truth about Armageddon.

## Conclusion

For those who will be involved in the global Battle of Armageddon it will be crucial to understand the secret of victory:<sup>23</sup>

*... and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful. Revelation 17:14*

The secret is being *with the Lamb*. If we are with Him, we will share in His victory. The Scripture passage states that those with the Lamb are *called and chosen and faithful*. Every person, at some time in their life, is conscious of the call of God's Spirit. Jesus said, *Many are called, but few are chosen* (Matt 22:14). The fact of only a few being

---

<sup>21</sup> Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to the Church*, ed., (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1948), 7:182.

<sup>22</sup> Ellen G. White, "The Great Standard of Righteousness," *Review and Herald* 7 May, no. (1901).

<sup>23</sup> Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, ed., 465.

*chosen* in this case means that only a few respond to the call, only a small minority respond to the gospel. These are the ones who are chosen as God's elect.

The Lamb's followers are not only *called* and *chosen*, but they are also *faithful*. God has first priority in their lives. They remain completely loyal, refusing to yield when opposition comes because they consistently follow Christ. By the grace of God they endure, and *he who endures to the end will be saved* (Matthew 24:13).

God's people need to know Christ as their Saviour and sin bearer. They must also recognise Him as their King. Jesus is *King of kings and Lord of lords*. If he is to be our king and victor in the coming conflict, He must be our Lord now.

*Every soul that is not fully surrendered to God and kept by divine power will form an alliance with Satan against heaven and join in battle against the Ruler of the universe.*<sup>24</sup>

## The importance of watchfulness

***...Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments... Revelation 16:15***

The claim is made that because verse 15 exhorts the reader to *watch and keep his garments*, this means that the timing of the sixth plague must be prior to the close of probation. The answer to this claim is that verse 12 is the verse which states what is actually involved in the sixth plague - the drying up of the Euphrates.

Verses 13 -16 is a parenthesis and is inserted into the sixth plague for a specific purpose. One reason is that verses 13 -15 reveal the preparations on both sides which are essential in precipitating Armageddon. Two contrasting forms of preparation are described:

1. The preparations of the powers of evil (verses 13 -14, 16).

The purpose of the preparation of the powers of evil is to bring about the union of all the unsaved. Verses 13 -14 reveal how this is achieved. The *gathering*, or uniting, of the powers of evil is proceeding and has been for some time. In speaking of the influence of Spiritism upon the unsaved, one author described them as *binding in bundles, ready to burn*.<sup>25</sup>

2. The essential preparation of the believer who is to be involved in the final conflict. The saints' preparation is symbolized in verse 15.

*Behold I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he that watches and keeps his garments lest he walks naked and they see his shame. Revelation 16:15*

The terminology of this verse appears to be borrowed from the experience of the temple watchmen of Jerusalem during their nightly guard duty. The inspector of the guard was called *the man of the mountain*. If, in his nightly rounds of inspection, he discovered a guard asleep at his post the man of the mountain would set fire to the hem of the sleeping guard's garment, resulting in a rude awakening for the guard and damage to his

---

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., ed.,

<sup>25</sup> Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, ed., (Washington, DC.: Review and Herald Publishing Assn., 1882), 88-89.



garment. In the morning parade at the end of the watch, the mutilated garment of the guard would be glaringly apparent, bringing shame upon him.<sup>26</sup>

In the preparation for the final conflict, the saints of God, like the temple guards, are to be at their posts in spiritual Jerusalem - the remnant church. They must be wide awake, alert to the greatest onslaught of deception ever experienced in the history of the church.

Watchfulness is essential. *Blessed is he who watches.* Jesus' special instruction to the saints who are awaiting the Second Advent was to repeatedly charge them *to watch*. Twelve times the word is used in this setting, indicating the danger of being lulled into a state of false security.<sup>27</sup>

*Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.*  
*Matthew 24:42*

*Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.*  
*Thessalonians 5:6.*

Many current preachers are teaching the opposite. Belief in the nearness of the advent is played down. *Don't be overly concerned, because if He does not come, you will not suffer discouragement,* is the warning. But Christ's instruction is

*Blessed is he who watches... and keeps his garments. Revelation 16:15*

There is a spiritual garment that covers our spiritual nakedness in the sight of Heaven. It is the garment of Christ's righteousness. This is righteousness imputed and righteousness imparted. It is righteousness credited to us to cover our lack. It is also righteousness imparted to us enable us to *keep the commandments of God*.

The warning is that if we fail to continue watching, we will lose our spiritual robes and be seen as spiritually naked in the sight of Heaven.

The greatest stimulus to inspire the saints to maintain preparation for the advent is the belief that it is near. This is the definite teaching of the New Testament (Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:44-51).

---

<sup>26</sup> Religious Tract Society and others, *The New Testament Pocket Commentary*, ed., (Religious tract society), on Revelation 16:15

<sup>27</sup> Matthew 24:42, 43; 25:13; Mark 13:33, 35, 37; Luke 12:37-39; Luke 21:36; 1 Thessalonians 5:6.

## Appendices

### Appendix A – Satan’s efforts against God’s people

*As the church approaches her final deliverance, Satan is to work with greater power...all the depths of Satanic skill and subtlety acquired, all the cruelty developed, during these struggles of the ages, will be brought to bear against God's people in the final conflict...the coming struggle will be marked with a terrible intensity such as the world has never witnessed. Satan's deceptions will be more subtle, his assaults more determined.<sup>28</sup>*

---

### Appendix B - The Dragon as Spiritism

This view is based on the following statement.

*The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of Spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.<sup>29</sup>*

This statement makes no implication that spiritism is the dragon. It appears that because a *threefold union* is mentioned, it must be the threefold union of the dragon, beast and false prophet. But the union involving these latter three is actually a fourfold union, because the three are united with Spiritism.

To apply the identity of the dragon to Spiritism confuses the picture. Revelation 16:13 states that the three unclean spirits (that is, Spiritism) *come out of the mouth of the dragon, beast and false prophet*. If the dragon is also Spiritism then the prediction is made to say that Spiritism comes out of the mouth of Spiritism. This does not make sense, so the view must be rejected - especially in the light of these statements

*that kings, rulers and governors have placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist and are represented as the dragon.<sup>30</sup>*

*In the book of Revelation, under the symbols of a great red dragon a leopard-like beast, and a beast with lamb-like horns, are brought to view those earthly governments which are especially engaged in trampling upon God's law, and persecuting His people.<sup>31</sup>*

---

<sup>28</sup> Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, 11-13.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, 588.

<sup>30</sup> Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, ed., 39.

<sup>31</sup> Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, 276, (1886 ed.)

## Appendix C - Does the dragon represent paganism?

This application was made popular by Uriah Smith in his work *Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation*,<sup>32</sup> first published in the 1870's. However, after more than a century of study on the subject, the reasons given by Smith for his conclusions need to be seriously questioned.

Uriah Smith correctly concluded that *the dragon in a secondary sense represents pagan Rome* (p 557), but he then offers his private interpretation and states that the *dragon represent Rome in its pagan form to which all must agree... the dragon then is a false system of religion* (p 563). This is pure assumption and is at variance with correct Biblical interpretation, where a beast in prophecy represents a kingdom or political entity (Daniel 7:17, 23). A dragon is undeniably a beast, therefore it must also represent a political entity.

The religious element, such as paganism, does not enter the picture unless it is specifically mentioned. Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece are represented in Daniel Chapter 7 by particular beasts. All three of those kingdoms had completely pagan religions, but this is not featured in the symbolism. Likewise with the dragon which initially represented the Roman Empire under the Caesars. When the religious system of Rome is referred to in Scripture, it is often with the terminology *abomination of desolation*, or similar.

Rome is also referred to in prophecy as *the dragon* after it had officially renounced paganism as the state religion. Revelation 13:2 states that *the dragon gave him* (the Papacy) *his power, seat and great authority*. This was fulfilled first by the emperor Constantine the great (330 AD), who professed to be Christian, and later by emperor Justinian, a strong Catholic (483-565). It was in 380 AD that the Christian emperor Gratian relinquished the pagan title *Pontifex Maximus*, where upon it was assumed by Damasus, the so-called Christian bishop of Rome (366-384 AD).

Thus the dragon does not represent any religious element. What it does represent is a political or civil power which is the agent of Satan which opposes God and His people. The dragon of Revelation 12:17, for example, represents the political powers used by Satan in the end-time, but these political powers are professedly Christian not pagan.

---

## Appendix D - Kings, rulers and governors

If the dragon represents *kings, rulers and governors*, how is it that *the kings of the earth* of Revelation 16:14 are included among those who are deceived after the unclean spirits come out of the mouth of the dragon (or *kings, rulers and governors*)?

The answer to this apparent confusion is that the dragon represents the kings, rulers and governors who have placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist - that is the Papacy. However there are other kings and rulers abroad in the world who have not placed upon themselves the brand of antichrist. These are described as *The kings of the earth and of the whole world*.

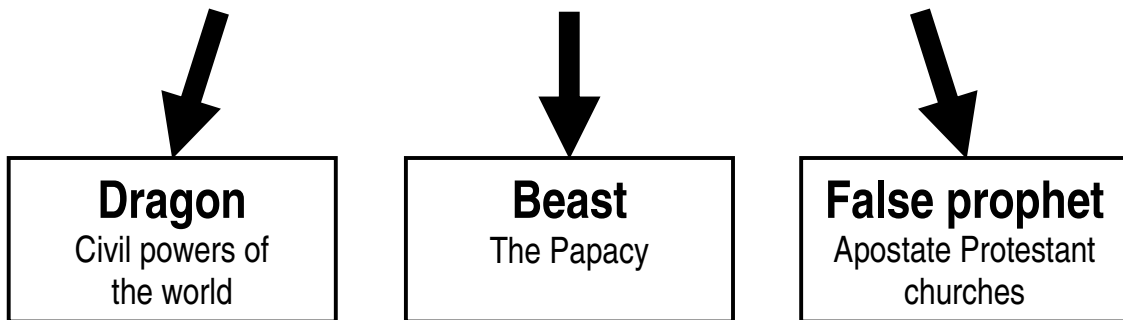
---

<sup>32</sup> Uriah Smith, *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*, (Battle Creek, MI.: Review and Herald Publishing Assn., 1881),

## **Appendix E - Testimony of the author**

In 1949 a spirit medium in Australia who was won to Christ by the author, informed him that he was in contact with two thousand Protestant clergymen in that country who were involved in Spiritism. In 1960, in Perth, Australia, it was reported to the author by a person who was involved, that in a prominent Uniting (ex Methodist) city church, spiritualistic sittings (séances) were being conducted in place of weekly prayer meetings. Similar practices were reported in other leading cities in Australia.

## ***Three unclean spirits***



***working miracles  
to unite***

***the kings of the earth and the whole world***

**against**

**Christ and His people**

## Bibliography

Anderson, R.A. *The Antichrist 666*. Washington DC: Review and Herald Publishing Assoc, 1980.

Chick, Jack T. *The Crusaders*. Ontario, CA: Chick Publications, 1978.

Cooke, A.P. *America's Ominous Future*. Sydney: Self published, 1995.

Manhattan, Avro. *The Vatican Billions*. Los Angeles: Chick Publications, 1983.

Nichol, F.D., ed. *Seventh-Day Adventist Bible Commentary*. Washington DC: Review and Herald Publishing Assn, 1957.

Religious Tract Society, M. Henry, T. Scott, P. Doddridge, and W. Burkitt. *The New Testament Pocket Commentary*.

Smith, Uriah. *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*. Battle Creek, MI.: Review and Herald Publishing Assn., 1881.

White, E.G. "The Great Standard of Righteousness." *Review and Herald*, 7 May 1901.

White, E.G. *Antichrist 666*. 2nd ed. Sydney: Self-published, 2010.

White, E.G. *Selected Messages*. Washington DC: Review and Herald Publishing Assoc, 1958.

White, E.G. *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*. 3rd ed. Boise, ID.: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1962.

White, E.G. *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*. 2nd ed. Sydney: Self-published, 2010.

White, E.G. *The Great Controversy*. Mountain View, CA.: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1898.

White, E.G. *Testimonies to the Church*. Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1948.

White, E.G. *Early Writings*. Washington, DC.: Review and Herald Publishing Assn., 1882.