Church and State – Part 5 The Image of the Beast







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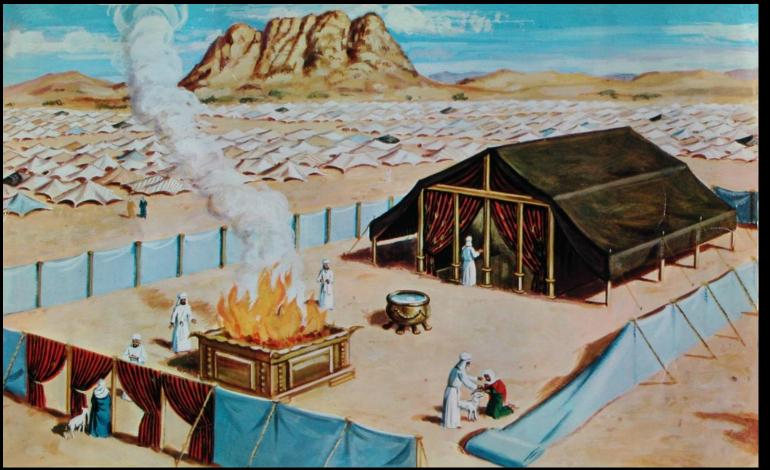
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And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet - Seaweed

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Eight types of edible seaweed are: Nori, Kombu, Dulse.

<u>Eight types of edible seaweed are</u>: Nori, Kombu, Dulse, Wakame, Ogonori or sea moss, Hijiki, Umibudo, Chlorella. <u>Seaweeds contain many vitamins</u>: A, D, E, C and B, and minerals - calcium, potassium, magnesium and iron.

- Its mineral content is higher than land vegetables.
- Research notes seaweed is a valuable source of vitamin B12 for vegans.

Benefits of Seaweed:

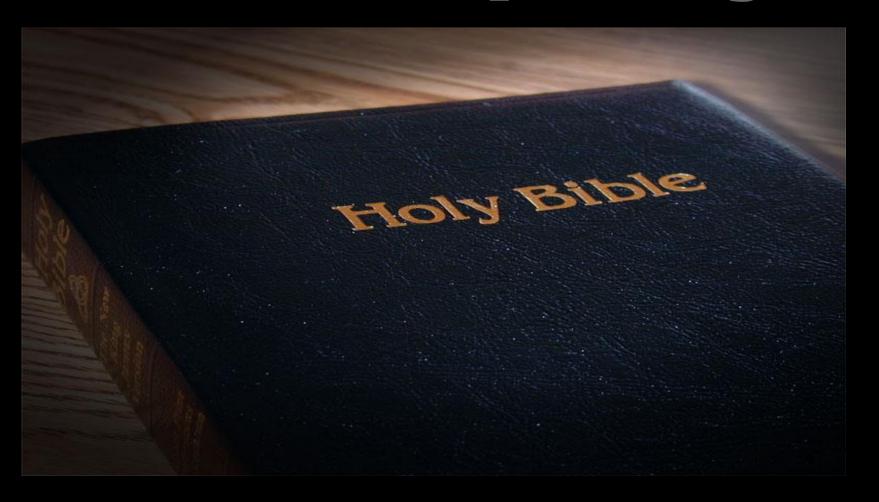
Source of Fibre: aids in digestion, prevents constipation
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Supports Healthy Thyroid Function: rich in lodine
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HEALTH BENEFITS



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Church and State – Part 5 The Image of the Beast







Introduction

Todays topic of discussion will be on the time when the lamb-horned beast will make an image of the first beast and speak like a dragon.

In a previous presentation we studied the identity of the sea beast of Revelation 13:1-10 and we noticed that it clearly represents the Roman Catholic papacy. Then we studied about the land beast of Revelation 13:11 and determined that it is symbolic of the United States. The two lamblike horns represent the fact that that kingdom, in its founding documents, would recognize the simultaneous existence within the one nation of two separate kingdoms—church and state which lie at the foundation of the two principles of civil and religious liberty. Now we want to study the meaning of the image that will be made by the land beast in honor of the sea beast.

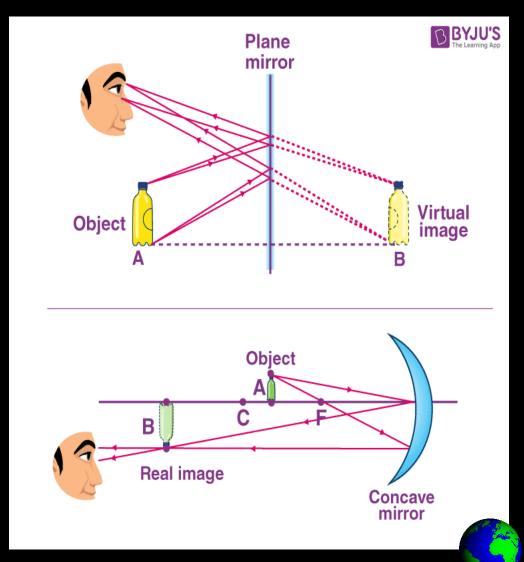




What is the Image?

In order to ascertain what the image of the beast is like we must first review what the original was like because the image is a replica or reflection of the first beast in its honor (see, for example, Luke 20:24; 2 Corinthian 3:18). It is an image of the beast and to the beast. The crucial question is this: What was the central characteristic of the Roman Catholic papacy during its heyday? We have found that the word 'papacy' refers to a church that employs the power of the state to accomplish its own purposes. Ellen White explains clearly and succinctly what the image is:

"But what is the 'image to the beast'? And how is it to be formed? The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image to the beast. It is also called an image of the beast. Then to learn what the image is like and how it is to be formed we must study the characteristics of the beast itself--the papacy.



What is the Image? (cont'd)

"When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people [because the Holy Spirit no longer did], she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state [notice here that Ellen White clearly defines the meaning of the word 'papacy' as the union of church and 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 [the church] must so control the civil government [must have the power of the secular sword] that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends" The Great Controversy, p. 443



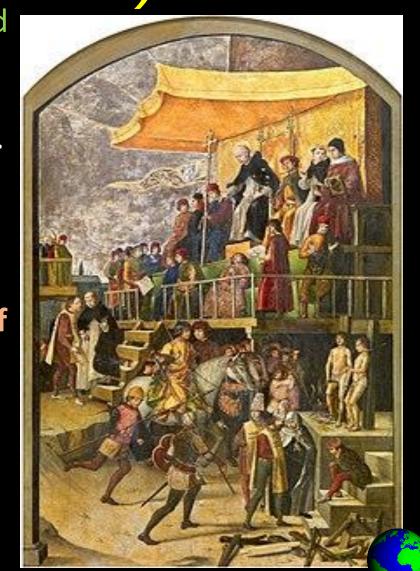


What is the Image? (cont'd)

As we have seen, the papacy during the 1260 years united the church with the state and then used the punitive sword of the state to punish those who dissented from her doctrines and practices. The Protestants in the United States [the land beast] will make a replica of this. They will work upon the secular power to safeguard their institutions and to punish those who dissent.

By making an image of the first beast, the United States will disown and contradict its own founding principles and make an image or replica of what the papacy did during the 1260 years. As a result, much of the history of what the papacy did to John Hus and the Sanhedrin did to Jesus will be repeated in the end time.

We have already interpreted the meaning of the two horns like a lamb (a single nation composed of two separate kingdoms—church and state from where we derive the idea of religious and civil liberty). But what is meant by the voice of the dragon? In order to answer this we must know what is represented by the dragon.



The Identity of the Dragon

The dragon is the central protagonist of Revelation 12 and 13. It primarily represents Satan (Revelation 12:7-9) but it also represents the Roman Empire (Revelation 12:3 [Daniel 7:23]; Matthew 2:16). Thus the beast that rises from the earth yet speaks like a dragon must be a spokesman not only for Satan but also for Rome.

It was Satan who stood next to the woman to devour her child as soon as He was born. Satan operated through the instrumentality of Herod, a ruler of the Roman Empire (Revelation 12:3 [Daniel 7:23] Matthew 2:16).

When Imperial Rome (represented by the dragon) disintegrated, we are told that it gave its throne, its power and its great authority to the sea beast (Revelation 13:2). That is to say, the papacy continued to exercise the powers of the dragon—Satan and Rome for 1260 years. But then it received the deadly wound.

After convalescing for a period of time with the deadly wound, the wound is healed by the land beast who will speak like a dragon. This must mean that the land beast will not only be a spokesman for Satan but also for Rome. And so, the dragon, the sea beast and the land beast are all agents of Satan who operates through Rome.



The Identity of the Dragon (cont'd)

This phenomenon of Satan operating through the instrumentality of Rome can be clearly discerned in the chronological sequence of events in Revelation 12:

- It was the dragon—Satan through pagan Rome—who attempted to kill the male child (Revelation 12:1-5)
- It was the dragon—Satan through papal Rome—who persecuted the woman for 1260 years after the child ascended to heaven (Revelation 12:5, 6, 13-15)
- It will be the dragon—Satan through resurrected papal Rome with the aid of apostate Protestantism—who will persecute the remnant of the woman's seed when the deadly wound is healed (Revelation 12:17)
- This is the reason why Revelation 13:4 affirms that the world will not only worship the beast but it will also worship the dragon from whom the beast received its power, its throne and great authority!



The Papacy has the Roman Element

"She [the Papacy] is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. She is piling up her lofty and massive structures in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. Stealthily and unsuspectedly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element [this is the iron of the legs, the power of the sword] is. Whoever shall believe and obey the word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution." The Great Controversy, p. 581





The United States Speaks

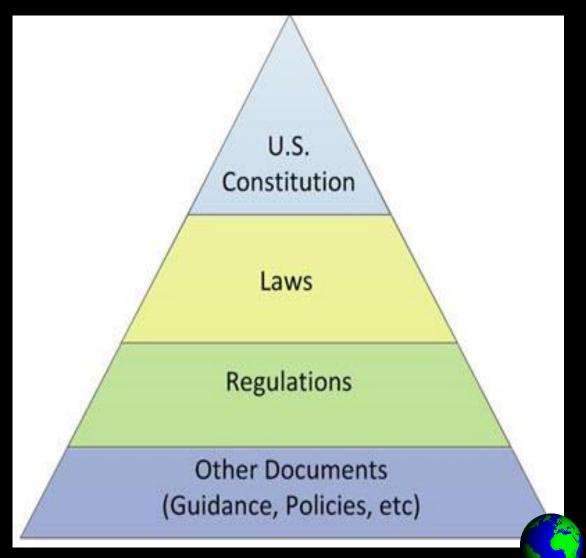
We are told that the nation represented by the beast from the earth will speak like a dragon. It will command all to worship the image of the first beast and to receive its mark.

The question is: How does the United States speak?

The answer is that it speaks through the representatives that the people have elected.

The duly elected representatives of the congress of the United States are the voice of the people, by the people and for the people.

"The 'speaking' of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. By such action it will give the lie to those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy." The Great Controversy, p. 442



A Unique Beast

It is significant that Revelation 13:11 is the only time in Bible prophecy where we are explicitly told what kind of horns a beast had on its head—lamblike horns.

Another unique element of this land beast is that in the prophecy of Daniel 7 each successive beast conquered and replaced the previous one. But this lamb horned beast is radically different than the previous ones. Instead of fighting against the beast that immediately preceded it and taking its place it actually helps the previous beast recover its lost power and then honours it by building an image of it and to it.

Everything this second beast does is with reference to the first beast. It compels the world to worship the first beast, to make an image of it and to receive its mark. This second beast exercises or executes all the authority of the first beast (Revelation 13:14) as the first beast exercised all the authority of the dragon beast.





A Unique Beast (cont'd)

Thus there is a passing on of the baton from the dragon to the sea beast to the land beast. We are told that everything this land beast does is accomplished in the presence [enoopion] of the first beast. The word 'presence' is the same one that is used in Revelation 13:13 where the land beast makes fire come down from heaven in the presence of men, obviously to impress them!

The text is clear that the second and first beasts coexist in history and the second becomes subservient to the first and does its bidding in order to impress it (Revelation 13:12, 14). We shall find in our study that the land beast helps the sea beast recover its power by helping tear down three walls that prevent the papacy from exercising world dominion. The first wall is the one between Protestants and Catholics. The second wall is the one between church and state and the third wall is the wall between Catholicism and Communism, symbolized by the Berlin Wall or the Iron Curtain.



Providential Rise

The terminology of Revelation 13:11 would seem to indicate that this beast from the earth arises in the providence of God. That is to say, God made this beast by a special creative act for a special purpose. The terminology used in Genesis 1:24 is very similar to what we find in Revelation 13:11.

In both we are told that God brought forth something out of the earth by a creative act. This must mean that the beast from the earth represents a miraculous creative act of God. In contrast, the first beast rises from the sea and the beast of Revelation 17 rises from the grave or abyss, realms that are under Satan's dominion.





The Two Horns

As we have already seen, the two horns like a lamb represent the two kingdoms that Jesus, the Lamb, recognized while He was on the earth. These two kingdoms are mentioned explicitly by Jesus in Matthew 22:21:

"...Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

Much is being said today in Evangelical circles about the need for Americans to be patriotic and Christian. It is assumed that in order to be both, the United States government must support religion through things like inscriptions on our currency, the expression 'one nation under God' in the Pledge of Allegiance, government vouchers for sending children to religious schools, government mandated school prayer, federal funds for charitable choice, religious displays on public property and the like.

But as we have already seen, to separate the affairs of the church and the state is Christian because it is what Christ taught. And it is also patriotic because it is in harmony with the founding documents of the nation. To join church and state would thus be antichristian (contrary to what Christ taught) and unpatriotic (contrary to what the founding fathers of America taught).



The First Amendment

Let's review the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion [clause # 1] or prohibiting the free exercise thereof [clause # 2] or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances [clause # 3]."

The first two clauses of the first amendment are known as 'the establishment clause' and 'the free exercise clause'. The third clause guarantees full civil rights. What happens when either of the first two clauses of the First Amendment is violated?

Let's turn to Daniel 3 and 6 to find the answer to our question. The events described in these two chapters are real life examples of what happens when the first two clauses of the First Amendment are violated—the result is that citizens lose their legitimate civil rights and suffer persecution and ultimately risk losing the greatest civil right of all—life itself. When either of the first two clauses is violated the last clause will also fall by the wayside.



The Establishment Clause in Daniel 3

One of the foundational backgrounds to Revelation 13:11-18 is found in Daniel 3. Both of these passages describe a beast (Nebuchadnezzar for a time lived like a beast), an image, a command by the civil power to worship the image, and a death decree against dissenters. And as we shall see in a later lecture, stealthily hidden behind the dimensions of Nebuchadnezzar's image (60X6) is the mystic number 666.

In Jeremiah 27:4-8 we are told that God commanded all nations to obey king Nebuchadnezzar and if they failed to do so He would punish them:





The Establishment Clause in Daniel 3 (cont'd)

Jeremiah 27:4 And command them to say unto their masters, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say unto your masters;

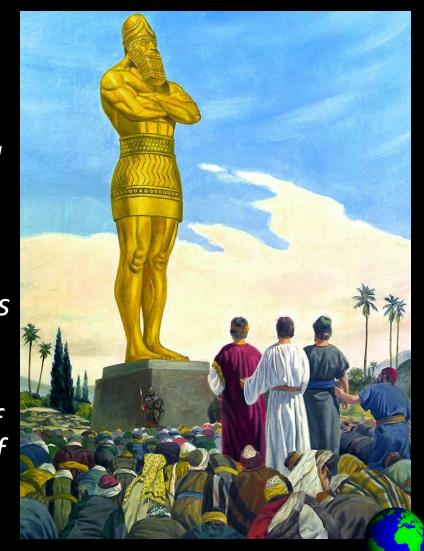
Thus shall ye say unto your masters;

5 I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me.

6 And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him.

7 And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.

8 And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.



The Establishment Clause in Daniel 3 (cont'd)

Even though God had warned everyone to be subject to king Nebuchadnezzar, in Daniel 3 we find a description of three young men who chose to disobey him. But God, instead of punishing them for not being subject to the king, rewarded them! Why?

The answer is that in Daniel 3 the civil ruler, Nebuchadnezzar, attempted to establish religion. He raised an image and commanded all nations, tongues and peoples to worship it. Those who refused to comply with this religious decree enforced by the state were to be deprived of the ultimate civil right—life itself! Thus when the king overstepped his legitimate realm of authority and attempted to establish religion this automatically led to persecution against those who failed to comply.



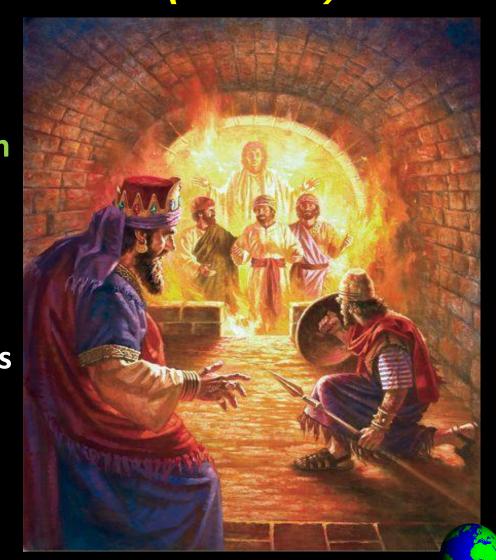
The Establishment Clause in Daniel 3 (cont'd)

The three young men who refused to worship the image are shown elsewhere in the book to be respectful of the king's legitimate civil commands but when the king crossed the line between civil law and religious duty the young men drew a line in the sand. When the civil power overstepped its legitimate bounds, the three young men chose to obey God rather than man and as a result they were condemned to the fiery furnace.

In the final instance the three young men had no human court of appeal and it looked like the king had all the cards. In fact the king defiantly raised his hand to heaven and roared:

"And what god will be able to deliver you from my hand?"

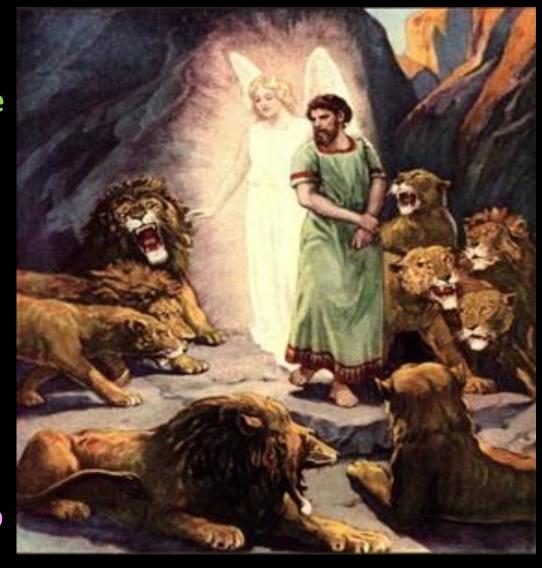
God answered that question when He personally and spectacularly intervened to deliver His faithful servants from the devouring flames.



The Free Exercise Clause in Daniel 6

The story of Daniel 6 is similar yet different. God had placed Darius to rule in civil affairs but he overstepped his bounds and gave a religious decree forbidding the free exercise of religion. Darius was not establishing a religious observance. He was not commanding everyone to pray to a certain god or in a certain manner. He was simply forbidding the free exercise right of the people to pray to the God of their choice for a period of thirty days.

In Daniel 6 we catch a glimpse of what happens when the free exercise clause of the First Amendment is violated. When Darius forbade the free exercise of religion in his realm, the inevitable result was the persecution of Daniel who insisted upon the right of worshiping his God according to the dictates of his own conscience.





The Free Exercise Clause in Daniel 6 (cont'd)

Daniel was loved by the king and is seen elsewhere in the book as a loyal subject to all the legitimate civil laws of the Medes and Persians. He practiced civil disobedience only when the king overstepped his legitimate bounds as a civil ruler and pronounced a religious law. When the king crossed the line between civil and religious matters, Daniel drew a line in the sand and commended his case to God.

On this occasion all the power once again seemed to be in the hands of the enemies of Daniel. The law of the Medes and Persians could not be changed or revoked so it appeared that Daniel was doomed to destruction. But as in the case of Daniel's three friends, God was the final court of appeal and He intervened in spectacular fashion to deliver his servant from the lions and from his enemies.



Nebuchadnezzar and Darius Oblivious

Significantly, neither Nebuchadnezzar nor Darius got the point that God was trying to teach them. After God delivered the three young men from the furnace, Nebuchadnezzar threatened that anyone who said anything against the God of Daniel would be cut in pieces and their houses razed to the ground (Daniel 3:29). He didn't yet understand that God does not force people to embrace true religion any more than the king attempted to force people to practice false worship. Worship is a matter of personal choice, not a matter of civil compulsion!

And after Daniel was delivered from the lion's den, king Darius made a decree that everyone was obligated to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel (Daniel 6:26, 27). The king didn't get the point. People can't be forced to tremble and fear before God—this must come from a spontaneous heart that loves Him.

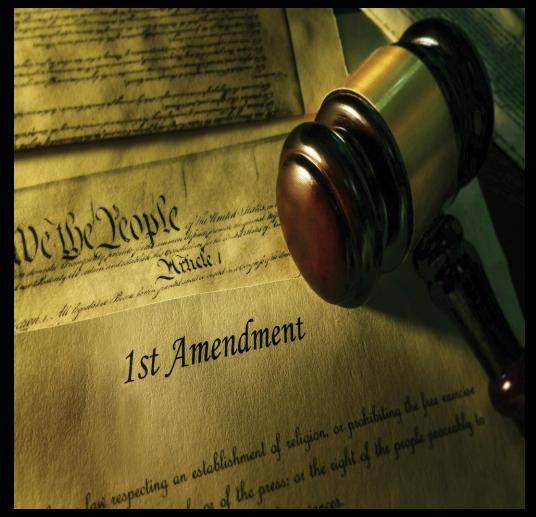


The First Amendment in the End Time

Someone might ask: What does all this have to do with the United States at the end time?

The prophecy of Revelation 13:11-18 clearly indicates that the United States will eventually violate both the establishment clause and the free exercise clause of the First Amendment. It will not get rid of them but rather preserve them in theory but deny them in practice. The land beast will not only compel all to obey the authority of the papacy by keeping Sunday thus establishing religion but it will also forbid the observance of the Sabbath thus forbidding the free exercise thereof. Ellen White prophetically understood this when she wrote:

"The time will come when men will not only forbid Sunday work, but they will try to force men to labour on the Sabbath, and to subscribe to Sunday observance or forfeit their freedom and their lives." - Maranatha, p. 177





The First Amendment in the End Time (cont'd)

When this time comes, the apostasy that was begun when the papacy attempted to change the day of worship from Sabbath to Sunday during the 1260 years (Daniel 7:25) will be completed by apostate Protestantism at the end of time when it enforces the mark of the beast. A comparison between Daniel 7:25 with Revelation 13 reveal some very interesting information. Daniel 7:25 contains four elements that relate to the little horn:

- Speaks great words against the Most High
- Persecutes the saints of the Most High
- Thinks to change times and laws
- Rules for a period of 1260 years





The First Amendment in the End Time (cont'd)

Revelation 13 contains the same elements that relate to the beast but one appears to be missing:

- Speaks great words and blasphemies against the Most High
- Persecutes the saints of the Most High
- Rules for 42 months

Where is the parallel to the change in the times and laws? The answer is found in the fact that the land beast forces all to receive the mark of the beast which is the change in the Law.

When Protestants in the United States enforce the mark of the beast by civil authority, the process will have come full circle. Just as the papacy destroyed the apostolic view of the separation of church and state, so apostate Protestantism will overturn the view of church and state that was established and taught the founding fathers of the United States.

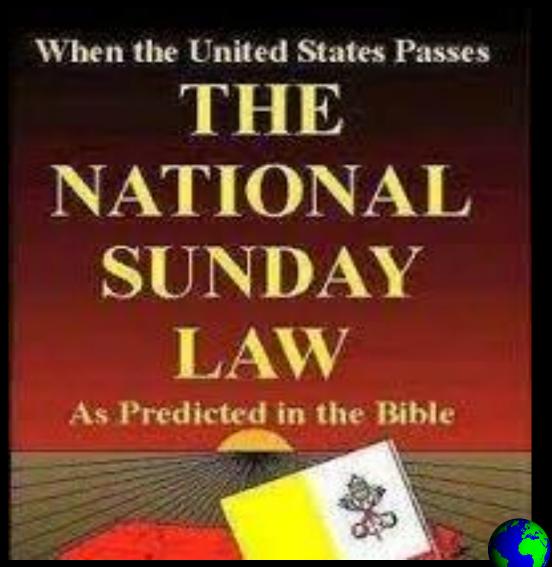


Aren't Sunday Laws Unconstitutional?

Someone might legitimately ask: Wouldn't the establishment of a Sunday law by congress as the national day of rest be a clear violation of the establishment clause of the first amendment to the Constitution? Wouldn't such a law be clearly unconstitutional?

And a related question: Wouldn't a congressional law forbidding the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath also be in violation of the free exercise clause of the First Amendment and thus also unconstitutional? The obvious answer of any rational person to these questions would be yes.

I am quite sure that when that time comes, the constitutionality of such laws will be questioned. But according to Bible prophecy the appeal will fall upon deaf ears—there will be no redress of grievances for God's faithful remnant.



Profession and Practice

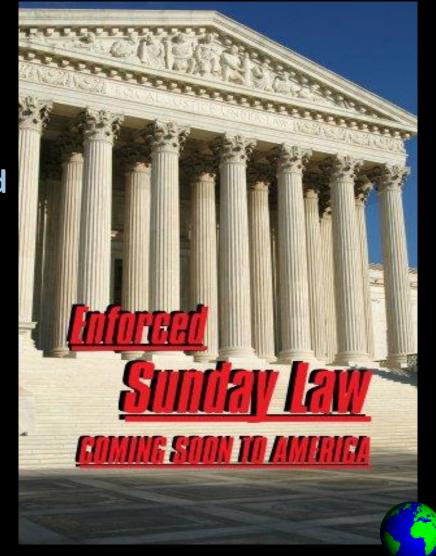
"The lamblike horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contradiction between the professions and the practice of the nation thus represented. The 'speaking' of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. By such action it will give the lie to those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy. The prediction that it will speak "as a dragon" and exercise "all the power of the first beast" plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution that was manifested by the nations represented by the dragon and the leopard like beast. And the statement that the beast with two horns 'causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast' indicates that the authority of this nation is to be exercised in enforcing some observance which shall be an act of homage to the papacy.





Profession and Practice (cont'd)

"Such action would be directly contrary to the principles of this government, to the genius of its free institutions, to the direct and solemn avowals of the Declaration of Independence, and to the Constitution. The founders of the nation wisely sought to guard against the employment of secular power on the part of the church, with its inevitable result--intolerance and persecution. The Constitution provides that 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' and that 'no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.' Only in flagrant violation of these safeguards to the nation's liberty, can any religious observance be enforced by civil authority. But the inconsistency of such action is no greater than is represented in the symbol. It is the beast with lamblike horns--in profession pure, gentle, and harmless—that speaks as a dragon." The Great Controversy, p. 442



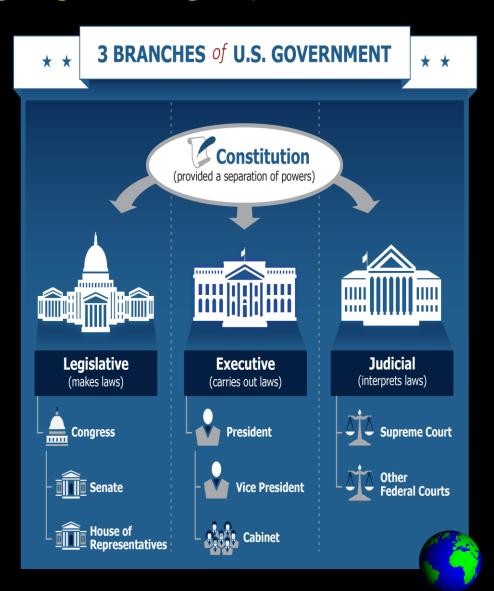
Three Branches of Government

The USA's system of government like that of many other nations has three branches: The executive, the legislative and the judicial. As we know, the legislative branch draws up the laws, the executive branch enforces the laws and the judicial (especially the Supreme Court) interprets them.

We should wonder: Which of these three branches is the most powerful? The answer is usually, the executive. But actually the most powerful branch of government in the United States is the judicial, particularly the Supreme Court.

And why is this? The answer is quite simple. Congress can write a bill and the president can sign it into law but if the law is appealed and the Supreme Court declares it unconstitutional the bill will not remain law.

The flip side is also true: Congress could draw up a bill that is unconstitutional but if the Supreme Court declares it constitutional it would be enforced.

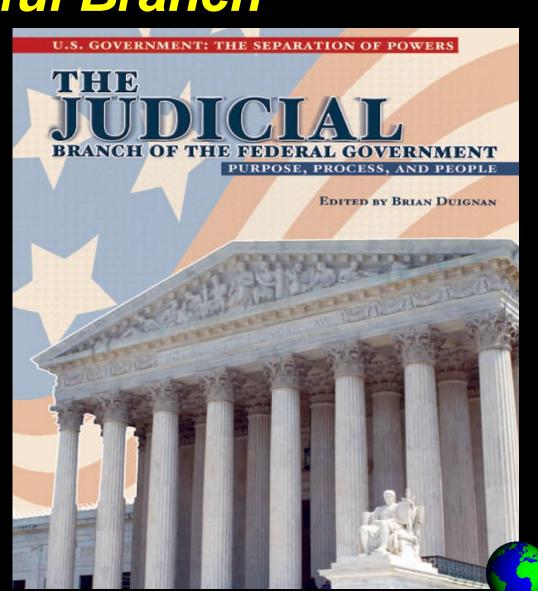


The Most Powerful Branch

If you don't think that the Supreme Court is the most powerful branch of government, just remember what happened in the 2000 election. After many appeals to various courts of the land, the case was taken to the Supreme Court and when the Supreme Court spoke, George W. Bush became president and there was no more discussion.

There are now seven Roman Catholics on the Supreme Court of the United States, one Jew and one claiming Non-denominational Protestant. There is nothing to indicate that the trend of naming Roman Catholics to the Court will end anytime soon. Catholics compose 25% of the population of the United States but they own 78% of the Supreme Court!

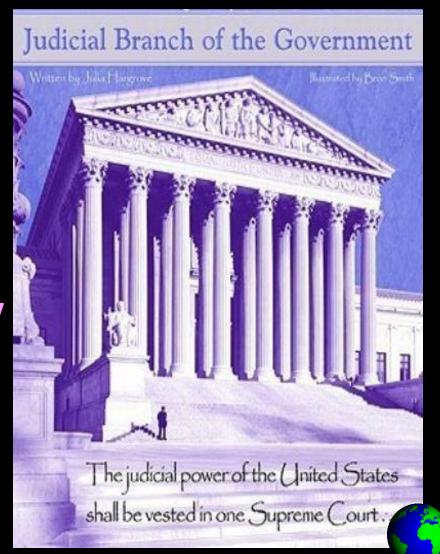
Ellen White has warned us what will happen when a Protestant government becomes entangled with the Roman Catholic Papacy:



The Most Powerful Branch (cont'd)

"They [Christians] do not see that if a Protestant government sacrifices the principles that have made them a free, independent nation, and through legislation brings into the Constitution, principles that will propagate papal falsehood and papal delusion, they are plunging into the Roman horrors of the Dark Ages." The Review and Herald, December 11, 1888

"The Roman Catholic Church, with all its ramifications throughout the world, forms one vast organization under the control, and designed to serve the interests, of the papal see. Its millions of communicants, in every country on the globe, are instructed to hold themselves as bound in allegiance to the pope. Whatever their nationality or their government, they are to regard the authority of the church as above all other. Though they may take the oath pledging their loyalty to the state, yet back of this lies the vow of obedience to Rome, absolving them from every pledge inimical to her interests." The Great Controversy, p. 580

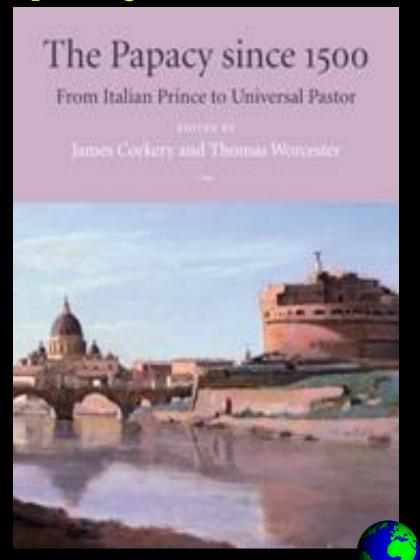


Fascination with the Papacy

Many Protestants today are fascinated by the papacy. Prominent political leaders have renounced their Protestant heritage and have converted to the Roman Catholic Church. Many Protestants point to the papacy's fight for human rights, for the poor, for life, for morality, for conventional marriage and against what John Paul II called the 'culture of death'. They believe that the papacy has changed and therefore that there is nothing to fear. Yet the papacy has not repudiated any of its dogmas nor has it laid aside its aspirations to global political power. She is harmless when she is helpless.

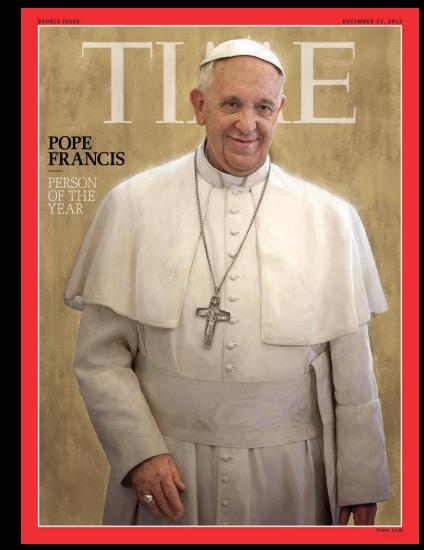
One its leaders once said: "In the minority we are a lamb; in equality we are a serpent and in the majority we are a lion."

"It is a part of her [the papacy's] policy to assume the character which will best accomplish her purpose; but beneath the variable appearance of the chameleon she conceals the invariable venom of the serpent." The Great Controversy, p. 571



Fascination with the Papacy (cont'd)

"When the land which the Lord provided as an asylum for his people, that they might worship him according to the dictates of their own consciences, the land over which for long years the shield of Omnipotence has been spread, the land which God has favoured by making it the depository of the pure religion of Christ,—when that land shall, through its legislators, abjure the principles of Protestantism, and give counterance to Pomish Protestantism, and give countenance to Romish apostasy in tampering with God's law,--it is then that the final work of the man of sin will be revealed. Protestants will throw their whole influence and strength on the side of the Papacy; by a national act [an act of congress] enforcing the false Sabbath, they will give life and vigor to the corrupt faith of Rome, reviving her tyranny and oppression of conscience. Then it will be time for God to work in mighty power for the vindication of his truth." Signs of the Times, June 12, 1893

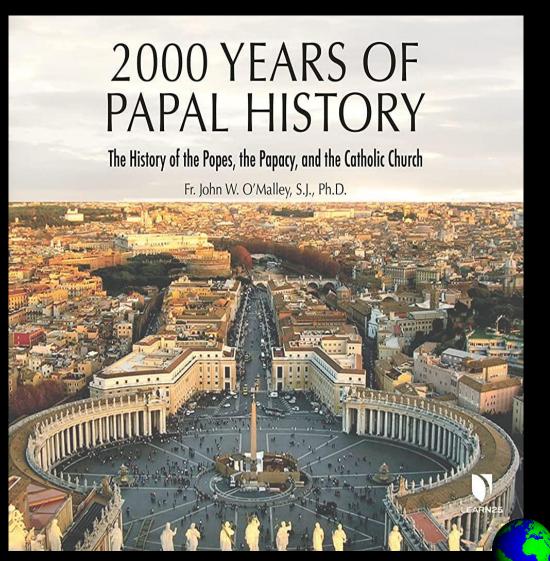




Fascination with the Papacy (cont'd)

When this happens, the United States will have formed a mirror reflection [image] of the papacy in its honor. The sea beast (the papacy) was characterized by a church that employed the power of the state to punish dissenters and so it will be with the land beast that makes the image. Time and again Ellen White warned about the dangers ahead:

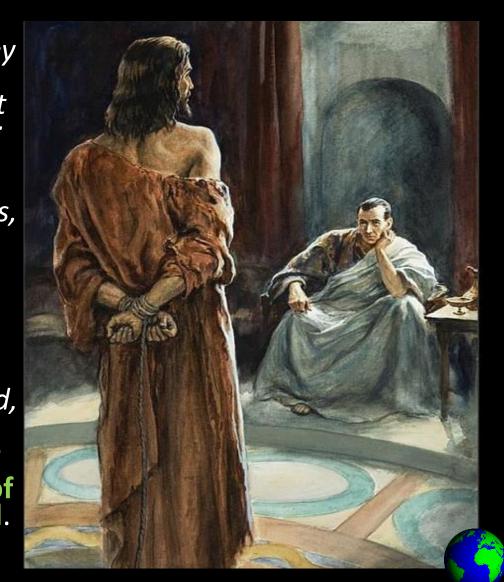
"In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends." The Great Controversy, p. 443



Which Two Kingdoms did Jesus Recognize?

Matthew 22:15-22 Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

Clearly, Jesus, the Lamb of God, taught the existence of two kingdoms in His day. The first was the civil power of Rome and the second was the spiritual kingdom of God. Jesus elsewhere referred to these kingdoms as "My kingdom" and the kingdom of "this world" (John 18:36).

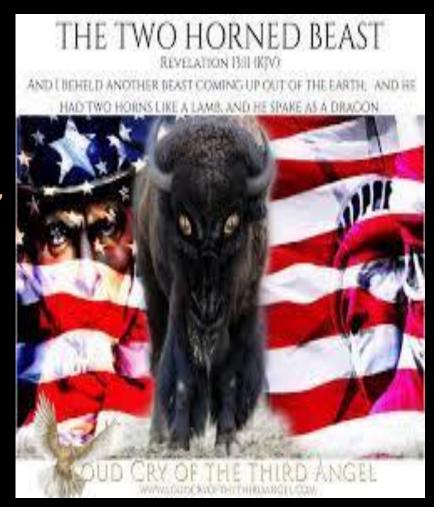


Nation with Lamblike Horns

Now the question must be asked and answered: What nation or kingdom arose around 1798 when the first beast received its deadly wound which in its founding documents explicitly recognized the legitimate simultaneous existence of two kingdoms within a single nation such as Jesus believed in? The answer is unmistakable and irrefutable:

"What nation of the New World was in 1798 rising into power, giving promise of strength and greatness, and attracting the attention of the world? The application of the symbol admits of no question. One nation, and only one, meets the specifications of this prophecy; it points unmistakably to the United States of America." The Great Controversy, p. 440

It is truly amazing that Ellen White would say such a thing when the United States did not yet have worldwide clout and influence at that time!!! Ellen White was actually saying two things that at the time were inconceivable: 1) The deadly wound of the papacy would be healed [contrary to Uriah Smith who said at the same time that the career of the Papacy was finished], and 2) the United States would exercise worldwide influence to make this possible.





Two Periods

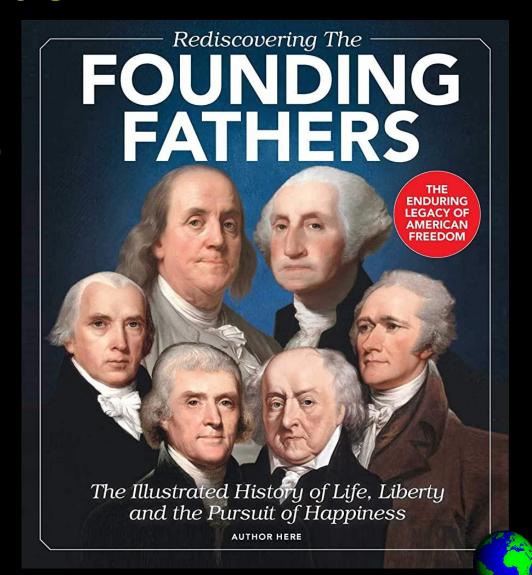
For convenience's sake, the history of the United States can be divided into two broad periods:

- The Colonial period (1620-1776)
- The Constitutional period (1776 to the present)

Constitutional Fathers

The Constitutional Fathers (men such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, James Madison and Benjamin Franklin) of the United States knew full well three things:

- The history of the church/state alliance in the middle ages
- The history of church/state relations in the colonial period
- The union of church and state as portrayed in the Bible



Fathers Knew about the Inquisition

In their writings, the Founding Fathers reveal very clearly that they knew full well the history of the church/state alliance in the middle ages and the persecution that ensued. In fact, they were living in the closing years of the 1260 year prophecy. It is sobering to realize that the Declaration of Independence (1776), the Constitution (1787) and the Bill of Rights (1791) were all written and ratified immediately before the deadly wound was given to the papacy in 1798.

The constitutional fathers knew that when church and state are joined together the inevitable result is the denial of civil and religious liberty and persecution.



Fathers Knew about the Inquisition (cont'd)

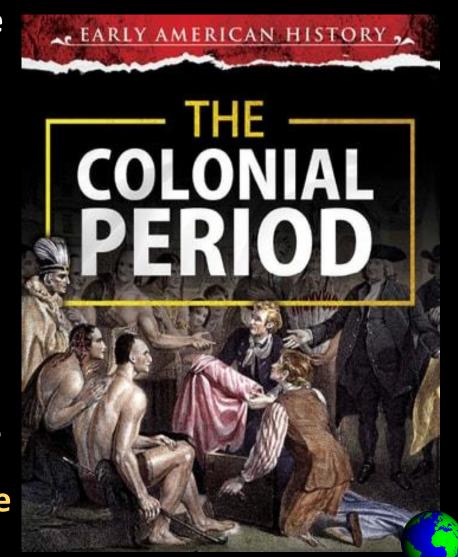
They knew all about the mechanism of the Inquisition and were well acquainted with the martyrdom of holy men such as John Hus. They knew that Hus was held in subhuman prison squalor for months without due process, that he was accused by false witnesses, that he had broken no civil laws, that he was tried only for the religious convictions of his conscience, that he was judged by the leaders of the church in a similar fashion that the Sanhedrin had judged Jesus, that the religious leaders pronounced upon him the death penalty and that the church had finally appealed to the civil power of emperor Sigismund to ratify their death decree. And they knew that Hus was burned at the stake for nothing other than his religious beliefs.



The Colonial Period

The Constitutional Fathers also knew all about the history of the colonial period. They were well aware that atheists, Jews, Quakers, Baptists and others were deprived of their civil rights simply because their beliefs and practices did not square with those of the established religion of the colonies.

They knew about Sunday laws that compelled people to attend church on pain of fines, lashes, imprisonment and in the case of three colonies, even death. They knew that only members of the established church could serve in official positions in the civil government. They knew that people's taxes were used by the government to remunerate the pastors of the established churches.

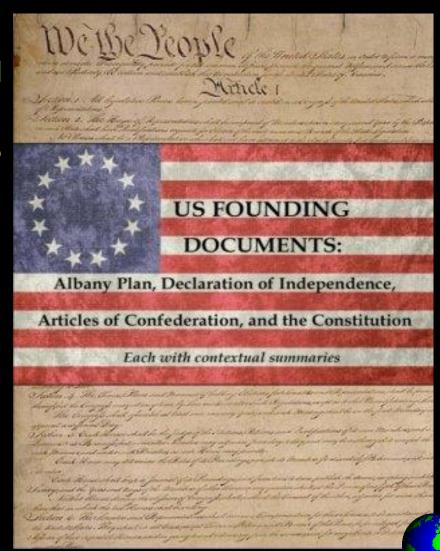


The Founding Documents

The founding documents of the United States are remarkable indeed. In 1776 the Declaration of Independence affirmed that all men are created equal and that they have certain inalienable rights among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In 1787 the Constitution was ratified and in 1791 the Bill of Rights (the first Ten Amendments to the Constitution) was approved.

All of these documents were ratified immediately before the papacy received its deadly wound in 1798. Just as prophecy predicted, God, in His providence, was preparing the next world super power to appear on the stage even as the previous power was about to be mortally wounded.

An examination of the writings of the constitutional fathers reveals that they firmly believed in the existence of two kingdoms in the United States that were to forever remain separate. According to their view the church was to use the spiritual sword of the Spirit to persuade through the preaching of the Word while the state was to use the material sword to preserve the civil order.

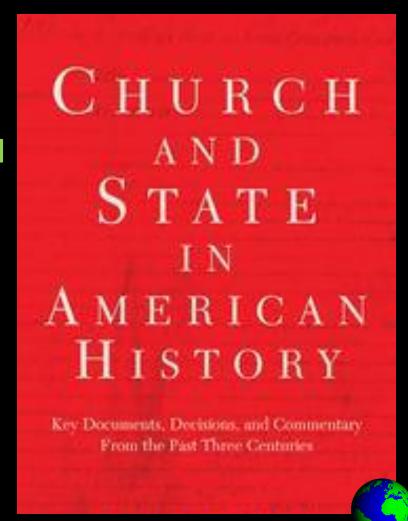


The new nation was established upon two great principles:

- Republicanism: representative civil government with the civil sword.
- <u>Protestantism:</u> representative religious government with the religious sword.

During the Middle Ages all civil matters were decided and imposed by the king and all religious matters were decided and enforced by the pope. The power flowed from top to bottom. When the king spoke in civil matters and the pope spoke in religious matters, the people were simply expected to obey without question.

The constitutional fathers established a revolutionary system of government that flowed from the bottom up—a government of the people, by the people and for the people in which citizens would enjoy full civil and religious liberty. The foundational idea behind this concept was that of two kingdoms in one nation, each with its own sword and separate from one another.



The new nation was established upon two great principles: (cont'd)

"The founders of the nation wisely sought to guard against the employment of secular power on the part of the church, with its inevitable result--intolerance and persecution." The Great Controversy, p. 442

In this way the founding fathers rejected the apostate Roman Catholic view that it is legitimate for the church to use the power of the state to enforce its beliefs and practices. Instead the Founding Fathers established a government that returned to the view of church and state that had characterized Jesus and the earliest church, one that separated church and state and guaranteed the freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience.

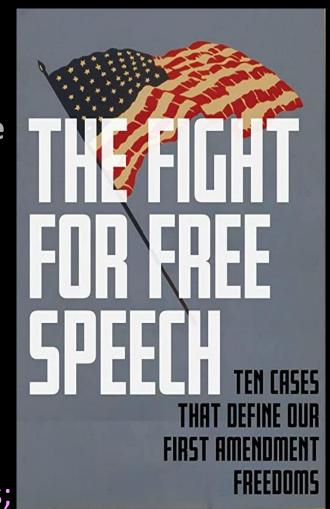


The First Amendment

It has become fashionable today for Christian activists to say that separation of church and state was established only to protect the rights of the church from the encroachment of the state but just the opposite is true. The history of the middle ages and the colonial period shows beyond any doubt that the greater danger is for the church to try and use the state to accomplish its mission.

Frequently Christian activists will also say that separation of church and state appears nowhere in the Constitution. Technically this is true if we mean that the actual expression: "separation of church and state" is not in the Constitution. However, although the specific expression is not found in the Constitution, the concept is clearly and explicitly contained in the First Amendment to the Constitution:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion [clause # 1], or prohibiting the free exercise thereof [clause # 2]; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances [clause # 3]."



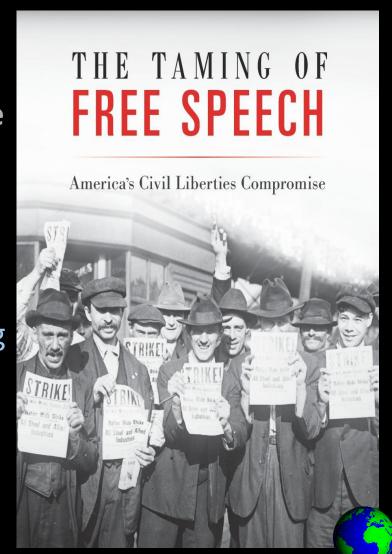


The First Amendment (cont'd)

Some contemporary Christian activists have even gone so far as to say that the First amendment applies to the federal government but does not apply to the states. But this idea has been overturned consistently by the Supreme Court on the basis of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Notice that the intent of the First Amendment is not only to forbid the establishment of a church or a religion over and above another church or another religion. The word 'religion' in the First Amendment is not preceded by a definite or an indefinite article.

Clearly, the First Amendment forbids Congress from drawing up laws that have anything to do with religion, period. In this sense the Constitution clearly contains the concept of the separation of church and state because the state is forbidden to make laws that establish religion or prohibit its free exercise. Thus the state can have nothing to do with religion except to protect everyone's right to practice it freely according to the dictates of their own conscience.



Vision of the Founding Fathers

What the founding fathers envisioned was not a Christian Nation but rather a nation of Christians. Their idea was that the church should do the work of leavening society by leading people to Christ and by teaching honesty, chastity, respect for life and property, family values, etc. In this way, society would be leavened from within and would be moral and righteous.

The idea was not that the government should impose by legislation the moral values of the church to make society moral. This is not the mission of the church. The mission of the church is to leaven society by the preaching of the Word of God so that society can be transformed from the inside out, not from outside in. This is what is taught in the parable of the leaven (Matthew 13:33).

The kingdom of God comes not with outward show. The gospel of the grace of God, with its spirit of self-abnegation, can never be in harmony with the spirit of the world. The two principles are antagonistic. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Corinthians 2:14)

The Founding Fathers

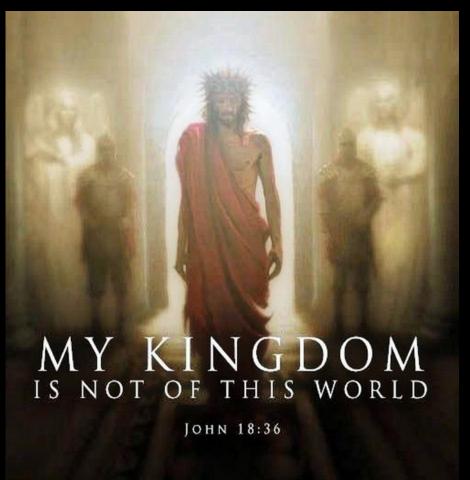
The Founding Fathers of the United States, especially Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin were strongly influenced by Cyrus the Great's legacy of governance based on respect for freedom of religion, customs, language and traditions.



This painting by Davood Roostaei depicts the fact that the Founding fathers of the United States admired and consulted Cyrus' legacy of governance as described in the Cyropaedia. Thomas Jefferson recommended two books to be read by fellow members representing two opposing ideology: Xenophon's Cyropaedia and Machiavel's Prince. At the end, our Founding Fathers selected Cyrus's vision.

What is the mind-set today...

But today in the religious world there are multitudes who, as they believe, are working for the establishment of the kingdom of Christ as an earthly and temporal dominion. They desire to make our Lord the ruler of the kingdom's of this world, the ruler in its courts and camps, its legislative halls, its palaces and market places. They expect Him to rule through legal enactments, enforced by human authority. Since Christ is not now here in person, they themselves will undertake to act in His stead, to execute the laws of His kingdom. The establishment of such a kingdom is what the Jews desired in the days of Christ. They would have received Jesus, had He been willing to establish a temporal dominion, to enforce what they regarded as the laws of God, and to make them the expositors of His will and the agents of His authority. But He said, "My kingdom is not of this world." (John 18:36) He would not accept the earthly throne.

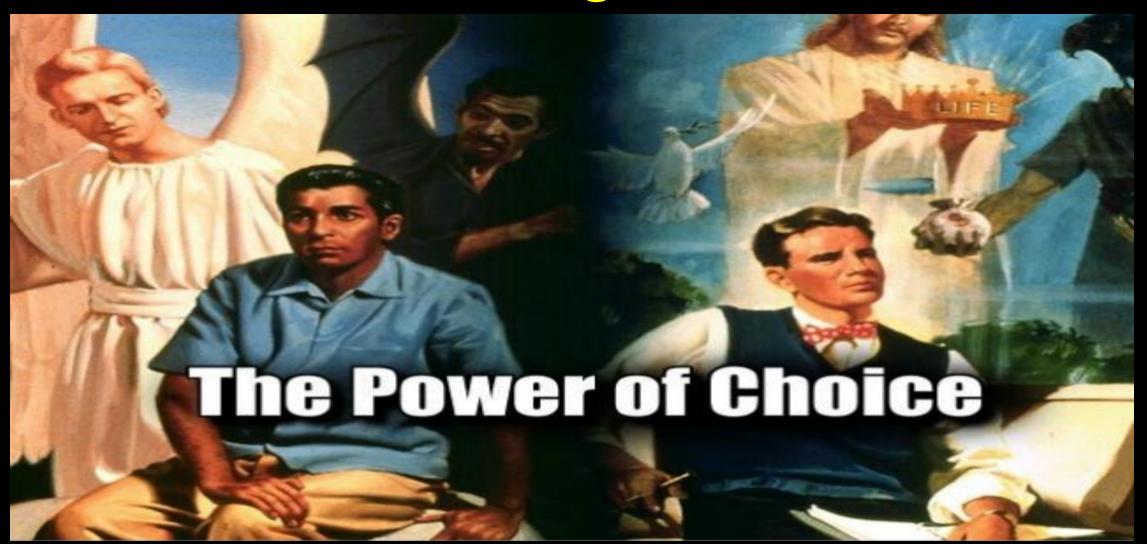


Conclusion

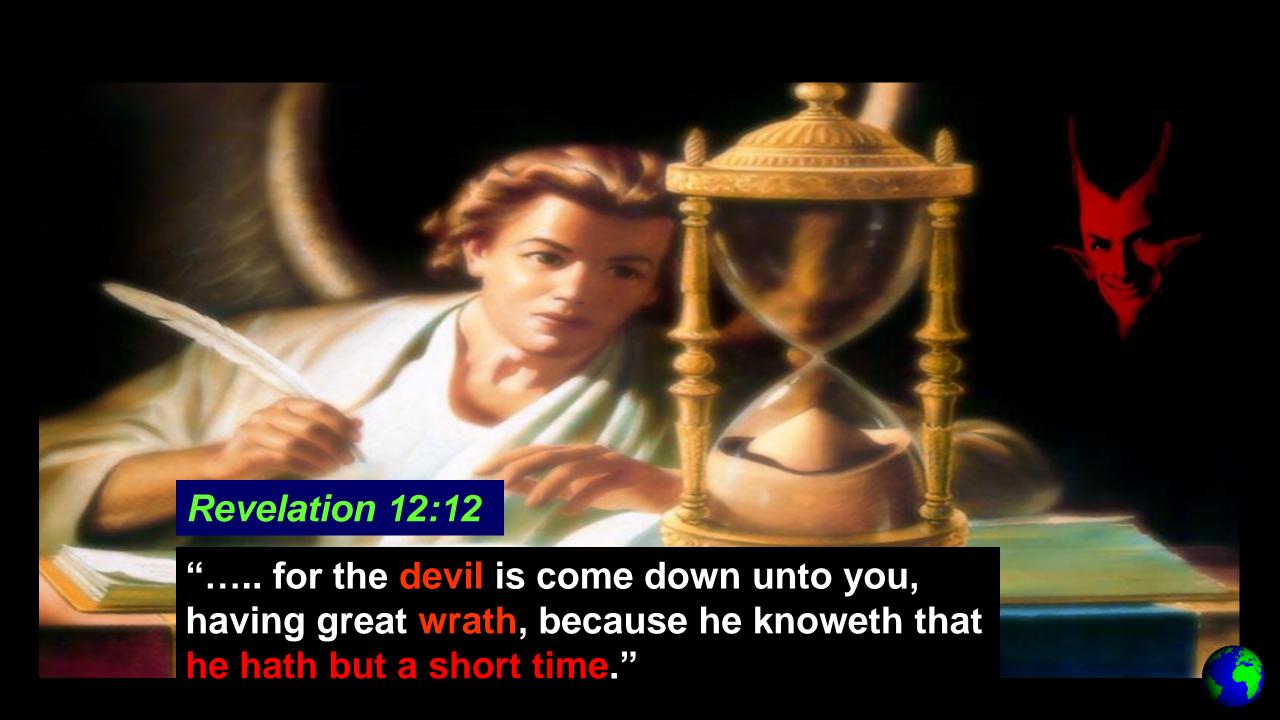
"When the land which the Lord provided as an asylum for His people, that they might worship Him according to the dictates of their own consciences, the land over which for long years the shield of Omnipotence has been spread, the land which God has favoured by making it the depository of the pure religion of Christ when that land shall, through its legislators [it will be done by Congress], abjure the principles of Protestantism, and give countenance to Romish apostasy in tampering with God's law--it is then that the final work of the man of sin will be revealed. Protestants will throw their whole influence and strength on the side of the Papacy; by a national act [this is an act of Congress] enforcing the false sabbath, they will give life and vigor [the United States helps the wound to heal by giving the sword back] to the corrupt faith of Rome, reviving [giving her life again so she must have been dead] her tyranny and oppression of conscience. Then it will be time for God to work in mighty power for the vindication of His truth." Maranatha, p. 179

THE GLOBAL **SUNDAY LAW**

God has given all:







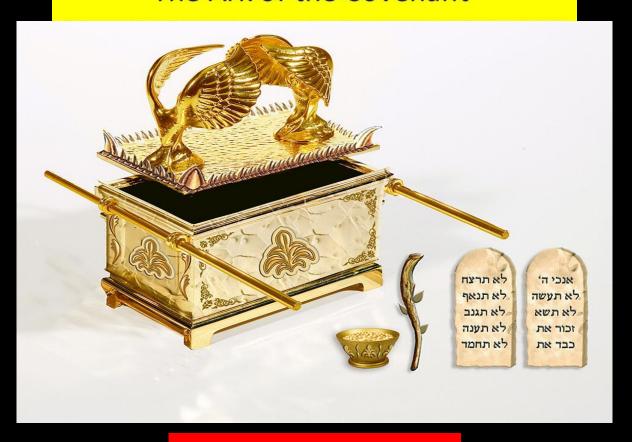
Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

- John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. -Revelation 3:20





