Church and State – Part 6 Miracles and the Image







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Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and Satan is primarily over

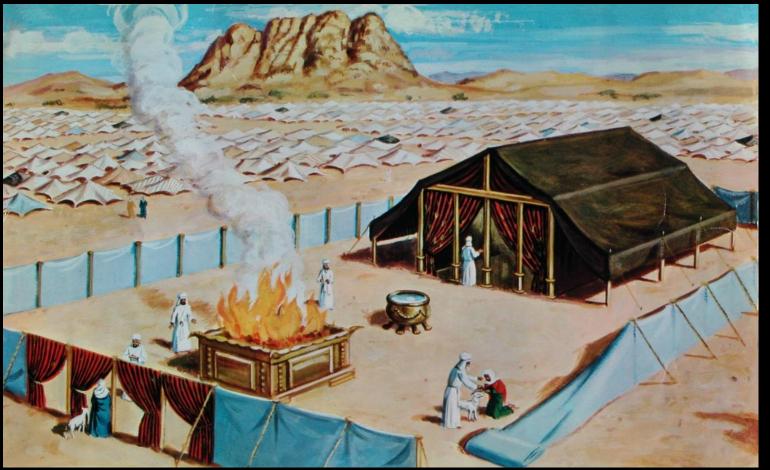
"WORSHIP"

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark Sanctuary





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

Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Artichoke

Health Benefits of Artichoke (Seek Medical Advise) Although often considered a vegetable, artichokes (Cynara cardunculus var. scolymus) are a type of thistle. This plant originated in the Mediterranean and has been used for centuries for its potential medicinal properties.

- 1. Loaded with nutrients: Each cup or 170g, of cooked artichoke contains: Calories: 90, Carbs: 20g, Fibre: 10g, Protein: 5g, Fat: 0.6g, Folate: 34%, Copper: 21%, Vitamin C: 12%, Magnesium: 15%, Niacin: 10%, Riboflavin: 10%, Potassium: 9%, Phosphorus: 9%, Vitamin B6: 7%, etc...
- 2. Studies show: improves cholesterol levels several ways.
- 3. Studies show: helps regulate blood pressure.
- 4. Studies show: improves liver health.
- 5. Studies show: improve digestive health
- 6. Studies show: ease symptoms irritable bowel syndrome
- 7. Studies show: helps lower blood sugar.
- 8. Studies show: have anticancer effects.
- 9. Studies show: Helps in weight loss.
- 10. Studies show: Protects From Chemicals.

Artichoke extract: high concentrations of compounds found, is also increasingly popular as a supplement.

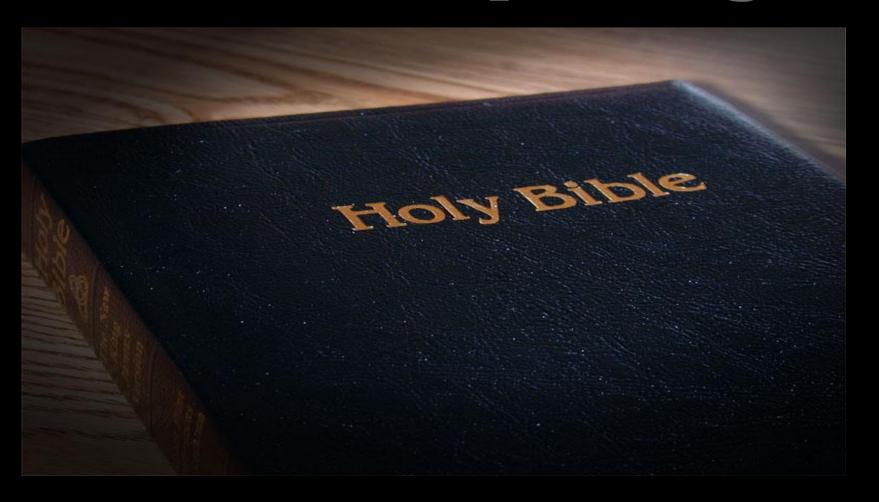
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Health Benefits of ARTICHOKES

- Reduce Bad Cholesterol
- Prevents & Treats Cancer
- Maintain Healthy Heart
- Balance Glucose Levels
- Relieves Hypertension
- Good for Liver Health
- High in Anti-Oxidants
- Improves Digestion
- High in Fiber
- Diuretic



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?





Yes we Can!

THE MAN OF SIN THE LAWLESS ONE

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of...



2 Thessalonians 2:9

with all power, signs and lying wonders



Church and State – Part 6 Miracles and the Image





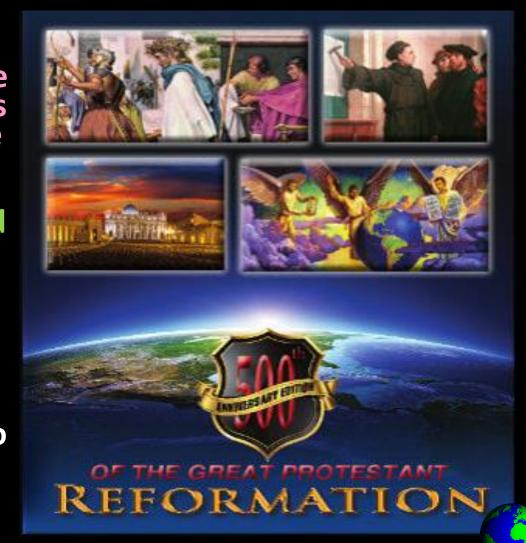


Introduction

The issue that will galvanize the world into one body will be global survival (see Matthew 24:6-8). No doubt a Sunday law will be enacted in the context of a global economic meltdown, a series of unprecedented natural disasters perhaps due to climate change, an alarming increase in crime, unparalleled terrorist attacks and spectacular manifestations from the spirit world instructing and encouraging the global political leaders to do away with what they perceive to be the cause of the problems facing the global community. Then the story of Elijah will be repeated and God's Remnant people will be called 'troublers of the people.'

The argument which was used against Jesus two thousand years ago will be invoked once again:

"It is better for these dissenters to die than for the United States to perish." (See GC 615)

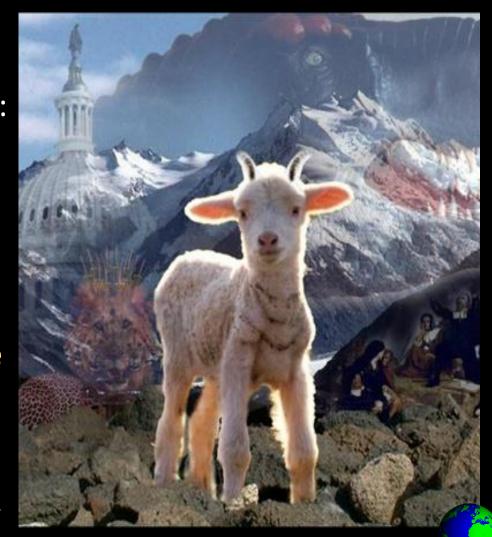


Introduction (cont'd)

In America this argument will appear patriotic and Christian but it will prove to be just the opposite. As happened with the Jewish nation, national apostasy will be followed speedily by national ruin:

"When Protestant churches shall unite with the secular power to sustain a false religion, for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution, then will the papal sabbath be enforced by the combined authority of church and state. There will be a national apostasy, which will end only in national ruin." Evangelism, p. 235

The question is: How will the United States be able to persuade the entire world to follow its agenda? As mentioned before, global survival will be used as an argument. But there will also be another factor involved. The beast from the earth will perform powerful and undeniable miracles to back up its agenda!



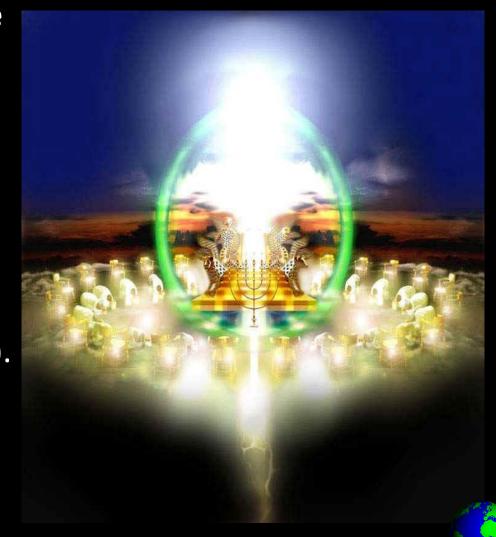
Miracles and the Image

Before we are able to discuss how miracles will be instrumental in getting the world to buy the agenda of Sunday legislation, we must say a few things about the three members of the Godhead.

At the very beginning of Revelation we are introduced to the fact that the Godhead is composed of three equal beings each with his own personality but one in purpose.

First we have 'the one who is and who was and who is to come.' Next we have the seven spirits who are before the throne and finally we have Jesus Christ, the faithful witness (Revelation 1:4-5).

In Revelation 4 and 5 we once again meet the Father who is seated on the throne (Revelation 4:1, 2), the seven spirits who are before the throne (Revelation 4:5) and the Lamb as though it had been slain in the midst of the throne (Revelation 5:6).



The Godhead in Heaven

Each of these persons plays an important role in the plan of salvation. God the Father is the ruler who sits on the throne and is described as the one who 'is and was and is to come.' But the Father delegates His authority to Jesus who carries on His Father's work on earth (Matthew 28:18-20).

After receiving authority from His Father, Jesus had a three and a half year ministry at the end of which He was given a mortal wound (Revelation 5:6 [the identical word used in Revelation 13:3 to describe the beast's wound]; see, Isaiah 53:5) but the wound was healed when he resurrected and the entire world was reached with the message of the resurrected Christ.

When Jesus ascended to heaven He delegated His authority to the Holy Spirit who spoke in name of Jesus and performed his wondrous works even making fire come down from heaven on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). The power of the fire provided power to preach and brought conviction to thousands all over the world who chose to follow Jesus (Acts 2:47; Colossians 1:6)



Satan's Counterfeit Trinity

According to the book of Revelation Satan has a counterfeit trinity composed of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet (Revelation 16:13). These three powers counterfeit the roles of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The dragon counterfeits the role of God the Father because it is spoken of as the one who 'was and is and is to come' (Revelation 17:8). He is the power who rules. He in turn delegates his throne and authority to the beast as God the Father delegated His authority to Jesus (Revelation 13:2).

The Satanic Trinity

The Dragon



The False Prophet



The Beast





Satan's Counterfeit Trinity (cont'd)

After the beast receives authority from the dragon, he, like Jesus, has a symbolic three and a half year ministry (Revelation 13:5). At the end of the three and a half years, the beast receives a deadly wound (Revelation 13:3, 9, 10) but the wound is healed (Revelation 13:3) and the whole world wonders after the beast marvelling because of its miraculous resurrection (see Revelation 17:8).

The false prophet then exercises all the authority of the first beast and speaks for it even making fire come down from heaven in the sight of men (Revelation 13:13). The fire from heaven persuades the multitudes that the message of the false prophet is true and the whole world wonders after the beast and follows it.

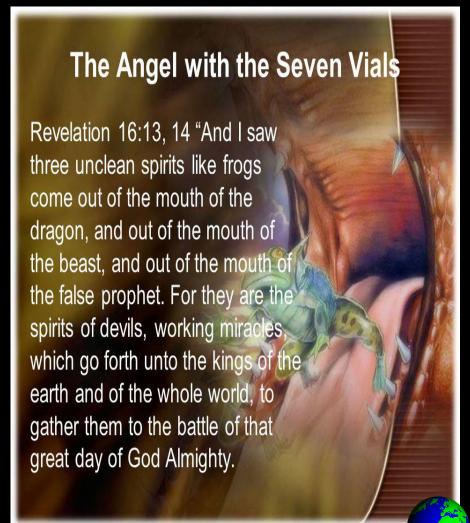


Apocalyptic Elijah's Three Enemies

Elijah's three enemies show the relationship that exists among the protagonists in Satan's counterfeit trinity. Elijah had three enemies: the first was the political ruler, king Ahab, the second was the harlot woman Jezebel, the third was the false prophets of Baal who did the bidding of the harlot. These three enemies foreshadow the enemies of God's end time Elijah movement.

The beast from the earth is called the False Prophet (Revelation 16:13). Notice that this is not a false prophet but the (the definite article is in the Greek) false prophet. He is a specific prophet with a proper name.

In the Old Testament, Elijah had a trinity of enemies: Ahab, Jezebel and the false prophets of Jezebel. In Revelation we also have a trinity of enemies of God's end time people. These enemies are the kings, the harlot, the counterfeit prophet/false prophet. Elijah made fire come down from heaven in the sight of men to prove that he was God's messenger. The false prophet will bring fire down from heaven to attempt to prove that he is God's messenger.



Apocalyptic Elijah's Three Enemies (cont'd)

The first enemy of the end-time Elijah is the dragon which represents the kings of the earth and the whole world who commit fornication with the harlot (Revelation 16:13, 14; 17:2; 18:3).

The second enemy of the end-time Elijah is identified as the great harlot who sits on many waters (Revelation 17:1). This great harlot deceived the nations by her sorcery (Revelation 18:23). She is also called the beast.

This harlot is called the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth. If she is the mother then she must have harlot daughters (Revelation 17:5; see also, Revelation 2:20-23) who do her bidding. The daughters are also called the false prophet.

The harlot sits upon many waters which means that she reigns over peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues (Revelation 17:1, 15).





Apocalyptic Elijah's Three Enemies (cont'd)

In order to fully comprehend the relationship among these three end time powers it is also necessary to study carefully the story of John the Baptist who was called Elijah by Jesus (Luke 1:17; Matthew 11:11-14; Matthew 17:10-13). The story of Mark 6:18, is particularly important.

In the days of Elijah the message of Elijah was proved true when fire came down from heaven to consume the sacrifices he had placed on the altar.

At the end of time the false prophet will counterfeit this miracle.

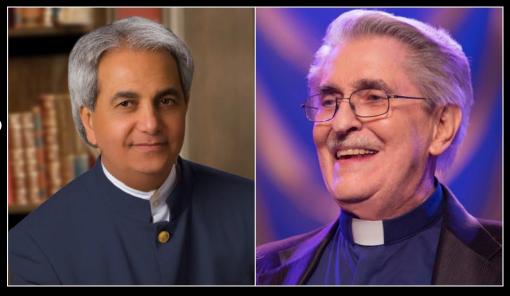


Counterfeit Holy Spirit Revival

"Satan will work through his agents who have departed from the faith to bring fire down from heaven in the sight of men." Selected Messages, volume 2, p. 54

Literal fire falling from heaven? Are you kidding? Really? How could such a thing happen?

How this might occur can be illustrated by some remarks that were made by world renowned Pentecostal evangelist and faith healer, Benny Hinn. On Friday evening, November 13, 2001 I was in a hotel room near Tucson, Arizona and happened to tune into TBN's "Praise the Lord" program. Paul Crouch, President of TBN, was interviewing Benny Hinn about his conversion experience. Hinn explained that before he was a Christian he had visions and dreams of himself preaching in stadiums before thousands of people.





Counterfeit Holy Spirit Revival (cont'd)

Then he said this:

"In the last twelve months I have been having some new dreams and visions . . . some amazing dreams. I have been seeing fire. I have seen myself in stadiums where literal fire was falling from heaven. The glory of God is about to be revealed visibly."

Hinn then referred to the tongues of fire on the Day of Pentecost, the Elijah experience on Mt. Carmel and the pillar of fire in the wilderness as proof that in the future the fire would fall from heaven at his meetings.





Counterfeit Holy Spirit Revival (cont'd)

The critical question is this: Would the descent of literal fire from heaven at Hinn's meetings be a sign that the Holy Spirit is being poured out and that his message is true? Of course not! The Bible provides the standard by which all supernatural phenomena must be tested. Our senses cannot be trusted and our feelings can lead us astray.

Isaiah 8:20 clearly states: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

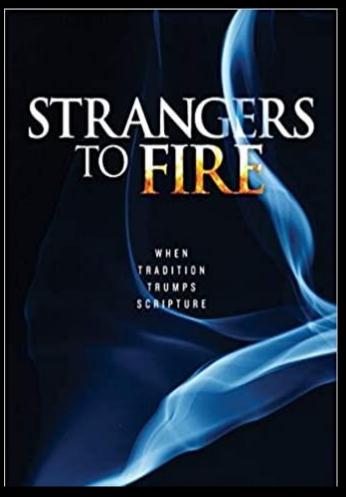
Do Benny Hinn's teachings square with the Bible? Two items will prove that they don't. Hinn claims to speak regularly with the spirit of Katherine Kuhlman at her grave in California. He has also gone on the record stating that Sunday is the day that the Lord has made to be kept by Christians in honor of the resurrection of Christ.





Counterfeit Holy Spirit Revival (cont'd)

"Notwithstanding the widespread declension of faith and piety, there are true followers of Christ in these churches [the churches identified as Babylon]. Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavour to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvellously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world." The Great Controversy, p. 464.





Religious Ecumenism

In recent years there has been a growing illegitimate love affair between Protestants and Catholics in the United States. What factors have fostered this unevenly yoked love fest?

Several theological, sociological and historical factors have converged to foster this growing intimacy. Let's examine some highlights:

In 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the cathedral door in Wittenberg, an event which historians mark as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. This act began the process of building a wall of separation between Protestants and Roman Catholics. Martin Luther laid the first bricks in the wall and others such as Calvin and Zwingli made the wall ever higher.





Religious Ecumenism (cont'd)

In order for the Papacy to regain its power, this wall must tumble down. The problem is that the wall got higher and higher with the passing of time. Colonial America was very suspicious of the papacy and set up laws to impede its progress. But at no time in its history was the United States more inimical to the papacy than in the decades of the 1870's and 1880's.

During this period, Protestants looked upon Roman Catholics with great suspicion because Pope Pius IX did several things that angered Protestants.

First he was instrumental in the proclamation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary in 1854.

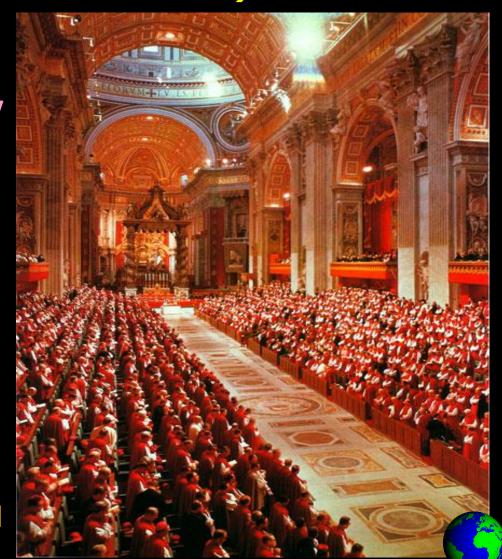
Then he published his Syllabus of Errors in 1864 and capped it all off by presiding at Vatican Council I where the Dogma of Papal Infallibility was established in 1870.



Vatican Council II (1962-1965)

Until Vatican Council II Roman Catholicism was looked upon by Protestants as a Latin babbling, Bible suppressing, Protestant hating cult. Vatican Council II did much to change this image. Good old grandfatherly Pope John XXIII presided over the Council in its initial years. Amazingly, the Vatican extended the hand of fellowship to theologians from prominent Protestant churches who were invited to attend the Council as observers.

The catchword of the Council was Aggiornamento which is Latin for 'renewal.' The Council encouraged Roman Catholics to study the Bible in small groups (under the careful supervision and scrutiny of the priests). The Council encouraged an orderly dialogue between Catholic and Protestant theologians. The Mass could now be said in the languages that the common people could understand. Protestants were no longer called heretics but rather 'separated brethren.' Even the rite of baptism that was performed in Protestant churches was accepted as legitimate.

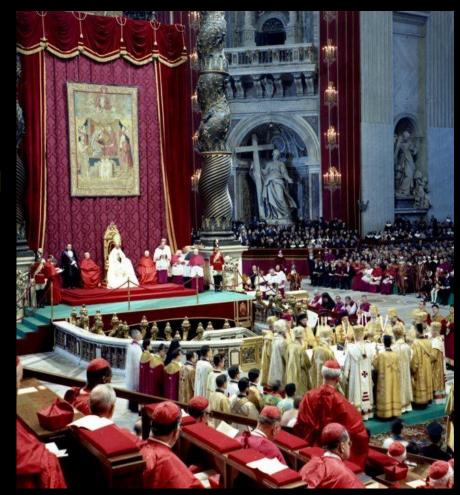


Vatican Council II (1962-1965) (cont'd)

To the superficial view of the careless observer, Roman Catholicism was emerging from the Jurassic age and catching up with the times.

Yet to the careful observer, the changes were merely cosmetic. That is, the Papacy went through a facelift but under the facelift it remained the same old ugly system. None of the dogmas of the Catholic Church were changed or reformed. It still considered itself infallible, still taught that Sunday is the Sabbath, that the dead are not dead, that we can pray to the spirits of departed saints, that sins should be confessed to a human priest, that hell burns forever, that Mary mediates between Christ and sinners, that man is justified by faith plus works, that it is acceptable to bow before idols, that Christ is sacrificed anew in each and every mass, that priests must be celibate, that oral tradition is of equal authority as Scripture, etc.

Yet in the aftermath of the Council the image of the papacy began to change for the better in the minds of Protestants. The cosmetic surgery proved to be a success.





Government Sponsored School Prayer Ban

Another event that galvanized Protestants and Catholics and led them to conclude that government was inimical toward religion was the Supreme Court's 1962 decision to ban government sponsored school prayer. In Engel vs. Vitale, a strongly civil-libertarian court, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, ruled that reciting nondenominational prayers written by government officials violated the Establishment Clause of the Constitution.

The Board of Education of Union Free School District No. 9 in New Hyde Park, New York, at the time required students to recite a 22-word, nondenominational prayer every morning. Several parents sued claiming that this prayer requirement violated their children's freedom of religion.

The United States Supreme Court ruled that the daily prayer ritual violated the First Amendment's Establishment Clause, even though students were given the opportunity not to participate. The Establishment Clause provides that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."





Government Sponsored School Prayer Ban (cont'd)

The Court wrote an unusual opinion, one that does not cite any cases, or rely on any prior case law, in support of its decision. Instead, the Court relied on the history of religion and its relationship with government and warned of the dangers of a union between church and state. The Court supported its position using historical examples, such as the notorious religious intolerance in 17th century England which contributed to the European migration to North America and the founding of the American colonies.

The Court wrote: "It is a matter of history that this very practice of establishing governmentally composed prayers for religious services was one of the reasons that caused many of our early colonists to leave England and seek religious freedom in America."



Erosion of Moral Values in Society

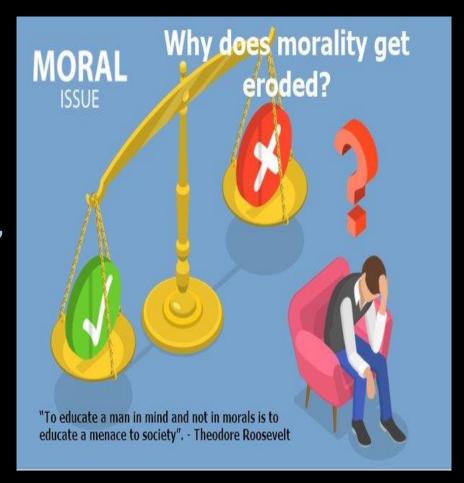
The decade of the 1960's was a period of moral transition for the United States. The Beatles, Elvis Presley, and Woodstock glorified the use of drugs and encouraged sex outside of marriage and rebellion against all authority. The Vietnam War galvanized the youth against the political establishment and the slogan 'make love, not war' became the clarion call of the hippies. There can be no doubt that the 1960's was a watershed decade. It brought into existence an entire generation of young people who openly defied the authority of parents, teachers, preachers and political institutions. Morality in the United States rapidly began to decay. The backlash from the religious community was to be expected and in the course of time Protestants and Catholics joined hands to 'moralize' society.



Erosion of Moral Values in Society (cont'd)

You see the moral deterioration of society demands unity of action. To use the expression of Chuck Colson, 'we cannot afford to be divided when the barbarians are scaling the walls'. There is a perception, and it is real, that the political left and the secular humanists are inimical to religion and would rather have religion cease to exist! Growing economic turmoil, social unrest, war, drug trafficking, disrespect for authority, erosion of family values, terrorism, and natural disasters create an angst that demands united action to restore sanity to society.

Recent decades have seen a growing intimacy between the Protestant churches in America and the Roman Catholic papacy. Enthusiastic cooperation on social issues such as abortion, gay marriage and judicial activism has given them a common agenda. Cooperation in the election of conservative candidates has given them a common cause.





Political Activism Due to the Disintegration of Morality

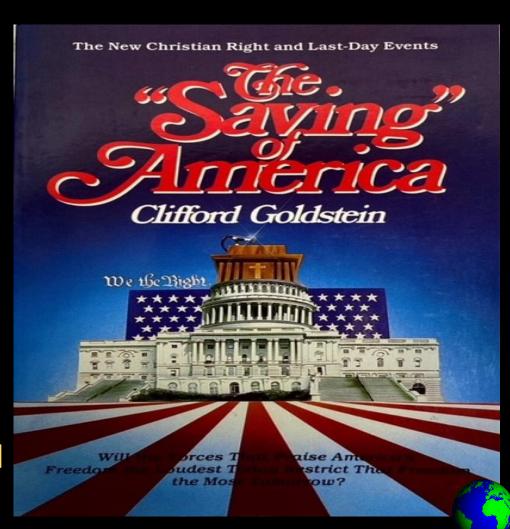
Journalist Cal Thomas once said:

"If we will not be constrained from within by the power of God, we must be constrained from without by the power of the State acting as God's agent." Harper's Magazine, March, 1995, p. 30

Author and theologian Tim LaHaye made legislative reform a necessary precondition for revival:

"While it is true that God has already given America three national revivals in the past, we desperately need another one today. Personally, I am not sure we can have one without legislative reform." Clifford Goldstein, The Saving of America, p. 47

Of course the question begs to be asked: Is revival brought about by the inward working of the Holy Spirit or is it accomplished by legislative reform?



Political Activism Due to the Disintegration of Morality (cont'd)

Pat Robertson, speaking at the concluding meeting of the Second Annual Road to Victory Conference of the Christian Coalition on September 12, 1992:

"Two thousand three hundred years ago the world was at a similar crisis as it is today, and a man named Haman erected a gallows to kill God's man, Mordeccai. We see that same thing today and who knows but what you are come to the kingdom for a time such as this . . . The enemies of religious freedom have erected a gallows for us but they will be hung on their own gallows.

"God told me in December 1991 that He was going to bless the Christian Coalition beyond our wildest expectations. Before the year 2000, the Christian Coalition will be the most powerful organization in the United States. We will have over 1.7 million Christian activists in all counties and voting precincts in America. People will be calling from Washington D. C. to ask us what is the position of the Christian Coalition so that we will know how to vote . . .





Political Activism Due to the Disintegration of Morality (cont'd)

Many years before, Pat Robertson had already expressed the objectives of the Christian right:

"... we have together with the Protestants and the Catholics enough votes to run the country and when the people say, 'We've had enough,' we are going to take over." Conservative Digest, August, 1979.

Robert Grant, president of Christian Voice, which was a branch of the Moral Majority established by Jerry Falwell once said:

"If Christians unite we can do anything. We can pass any law or any amendment and that's exactly what we intend to do." Quoted in Liberty Magazine, May/June 1980, p. 4

In a television interview, Grant stated:

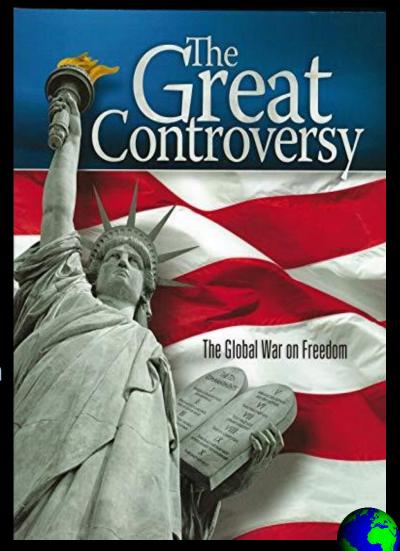
"We can do anything. We can amend the Constitution. We can elect a president. We can change or make any law in the land. And it behoves us to do it. If we have to live under the law, as well, we should live under moral and Godly Law." (20/20 program the week of the Democratic National Convention in 1980)





But history proves that the opposite is true:

"The regulation adopted by the early colonists, of permitting only members of the church to vote or to hold office in the civil government, led to most pernicious results. This measure had been accepted as a means of preserving the purity of the state, but it resulted in the corruption of the church. A profession of religion being the condition of suffrage and office holding, many, actuated solely by motives of worldly policy, united with the church without a change of heart. Thus the churches came to consist, to a considerable extent, of unconverted persons; and even in the ministry were those who not only held errors of doctrine, but who were ignorant of the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. Thus again was demonstrated the evil results, so often witnessed in the history of the church from the days of Constantine to the present, of attempting to build up the church by the aid of the state, of appealing to the secular power in support of the gospel of Him who declared: "My kingdom is not of this world." John 18:36. The union of the church with the state, be the degree never so slight, while it may appear to bring the world nearer to the church, does in reality but bring the church nearer to the world." The Great Controversy, p. 297



Vouchers, Charitable Choice and Religious Displays

In recent years the failure of the public education system has led Protestants and Catholics to lobby together for school vouchers that will allow parents to send their children to sectarian schools at government expense. Of course the Roman Catholic Church stands to benefit most from this arrangement because they have the largest parochial school system in the country.

Protestants and Catholics have also made great strides in getting the government to support their charitable organizations. George W. Bush signed an executive order authorizing the federal government to give money to private and sectarian charities. Is this not the case of Caesar rendering to God that which is Caesar's? Would we feel comfortable if the government requested churches to pay a portion of their tithes as taxes in order to reduce the Federal budget deficit? Would this not be rendering unto Caesar that which is God's?





The Marriage Debate

The issue of marriage has also helped fuse the relationship between Protestants and Catholics. The papacy (and rightly so!) is a staunch defender of conventional marriage as the union between a man and a woman. Conservative Protestants agree. The Manhattan Declaration, which was signed by conservative Protestants and Catholics, puts the pressure on the political leaders of the United States to defend the sanctity of heterosexual marriage. The legalization of gay marriage by the courts and legislatures in several states has led Christian conservatives to feel like the government has become morally lax.

On the other hand, conservative Catholics and Protestants are in favour of Sunday sacredness which is clearly contradictory to the creation story where God made the seventh-day Sabbath holy. So both the left and the right are attempting to change creation institutions. It is crass hypocrisy to defend the sanctity of marriage on the basis of creation and not to sustain the equal sanctity of the Sabbath which was created at the same time and in the same place!





Theological Ecumenism

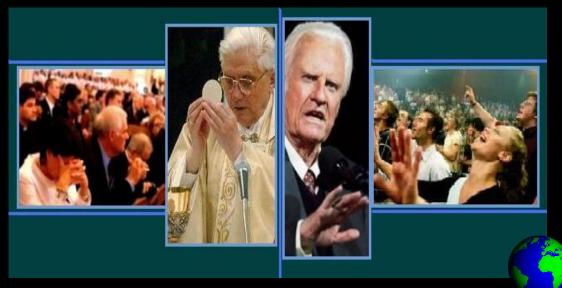
The word 'ecumenism' means 'to dwell in the same house'. After Vatican II Protestant and Roman Catholic scholars began meeting on a regular basis to discuss theological issues. In these contacts friendships were formed and a consensus was sought on the 'basics' of the Christian faith. Three documents signed by prominent Protestant and Catholic leaders in recent years illustrate how the two sides have drawn closer and closer together. The first was Evangelicals and Catholics Together, the second was the Joint Declaration on Righteousness by Faith and the third was the Manhattan Declaration.



Evangelicals and Catholics Together

Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium consisting of 25 pages was signed on March 29, 1994 by 39 of the most influential evangelicals and Catholics in the United States including Richard Neehaus (a prominent clergyman who converted from the Lutheran to the Catholic Church), Charles Colson (of Watergate and prison ministries fame), Pat Robertson (founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network), John Cardinal O'Connor (who was in charge of the archdiocese of New York) as well as other influential bishops, archbishops and scholars. The document discouraged Protestants and Catholics from proselytizing members from one another's churches and encouraged **Protestants and Catholics to work together in** the evangelization of the world.





Evangelicals and Catholics Together (cont'd)

Pat Robertson's explained the reason why he signed the document:

"The moral crisis facing society today and the obvious social breakdown mandates a closer cooperation between people of faith. The time has come where we must lay aside minor points of doctrinal differences and focus on the Lord Jesus Christ. . . I'm lending my support because I believe it's imperative that we work to bring the body of Christ together." Christian American, May/June, 1994

USA Today, March 30, 1994 had this to say about Evangelicals and Catholics Together:

"The leaders in a statement [Evangelicals and Catholics Together] are urging the nation's fifty-two million Catholics and thirteen million evangelicals to no longer hold each other at theological arms length and stop aggressive proselytizing of each others' flocks, in short, to turn their theological swords into a recognition of a common faith."





Joint Declaration

On October 31, 1999 after 33 years of deliberation and negotiation (which began right after Vatican II) Roman Catholic and Lutheran leaders (who represented 61.5 million Lutherans worldwide) signed the Joint Declaration on Righteousness by Faith in which they concluded that Martin Luther's rift with Rome was actually due to a misunderstanding and was a battle over semantics (definition of words). The irony of the whole matter is that the document was signed exactly 482 years to the day after Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the cathedral door in Wittenberg.





Manhattan Declaration of 2009

More recently thousands of religious leaders, both Protestant and Roman Catholic have signed the Manhattan Declaration.

"Perhaps some of you have heard of the Manhattan Declaration. This document was drafted on October 20, 2009 and released on November 20 by some very influential Roman Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical and Orthodox religious leaders in the United States and the world. Among those who have signed the Declaration are bishops and archbishops, university presidents, theological seminary presidents, seminary teachers, chancellors, leaders of various family life organizations, senior pastors of influential mega and giga churches, lawyers and world renowned Christian authors, editors and religious broadcasters."



Manhattan Declaration (cont'd)

To date there are over one half million signatories from every religious stripe—Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Anglican, Orthodox, Methodist, United Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Reformed, Salvation Army, Christian, Reformed Episcopal, Church of God in Christ, Congregational, Pentécostal, Church of Christ, Evangelical Free, Assembly of God, Church of the Brethren, Lutheran—a truly ecumenical group! In fact the drafters of the Declaration have explicitly stated: "we act together" and we have "united at this hour" to "reaffirm fundamental truths." In another place the **Declaration states: "We are Christians who have** joined together across historic lines of ecclesial differences to affirm our right—and, more importantly, to embrace our obligation—to speak and act in defense of these truths." As I see it, this ecumenical spirit is one of the most problematic aspects of the Manhattan Declaration.







Ut Unum Sint

To these three documents must be added John Paul's encyclical, Ut Unum Sint ('that they all may be one') where He envisions the day when Protestants and Catholics can gather together under the same roof to celebrate the Eucharist or Mass. This is a significant call because according to Roman Catholic theology only a properly ordained priest by apostolic succession has the power to transubstantiate the bread and the wine into the body and blood of Jesus. This must mean that if and when such an ecumenical Mass is celebrated, a Roman Catholic priest must officiate because only he can transubstantiate the bread and wine.

Ut Unum Sint



John Paul II

ENCYCLICAL LETTER ON THE CHURCH'S COMMITMENT TO ECUMENISM



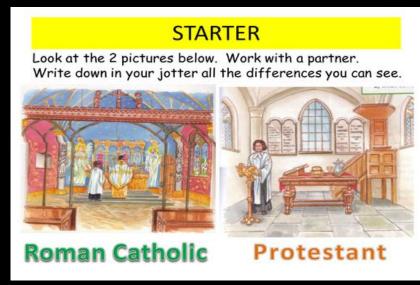
Together on Common Points

Chuck Colson in the introduction to Roman Catholic Keith Fournier's book, Evangelical Catholics (notice that Fournier claims to be both Evangelical and Catholic), makes several remarkable statements:

"It's high time that all of us who are Christians come together regardless of the differences of our confessions and our traditions and make common cause to bring Christian values to bear in our society. When the barbarians are scaling the walls, there is no time for petty quarrelling in the camp" p. 1

"But at root, those who are called of God, whether Catholic or Protestant, are part of the same Body. What they share is a belief in the basics: the virgin birth, the deity of Christ, His bodily resurrection, His imminent return, and the authority of His infallible Word. They also share the same mission: presenting Christ as Saviour and Lord to a needy world" p. 6

"I pray that this [Fournier's] book will be read by Catholics and Protestant alike, that it will be a bridge across many of the historic divisions in the church that have weakened our stand in today's culture" Evangelical Catholics, p. 6



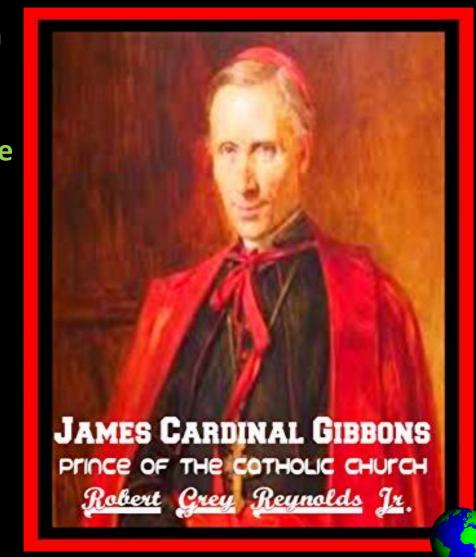


Ralph Reed who was the first president of Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition and lobbies for Christian causes in Congress said the following in a speech which he delivered to the Catholic Campaign for America:

"The truth is, you and I are uniting . . . We are coming together because whatever theological differences there are, there is far more that unites us and brings us together than divides us and separates us . . . The good news is the chasm is being bridged and that those walls are crumbling . . . The truth my friends is this. Catholicism never has been, is not today, and never will be a threat to American democracy. It was and remains the most colourful and the most vibrant thread running through the tapestry of American democracy."

One's mouth drops wide open when one hears Reed unashamedly and recklessly affirm:

"Cardinal Gibbons said this: he said, No constitution is more in harmony with Catholic principles than the American constitution and no religion is more in accord with that constitution than the Catholic religion."

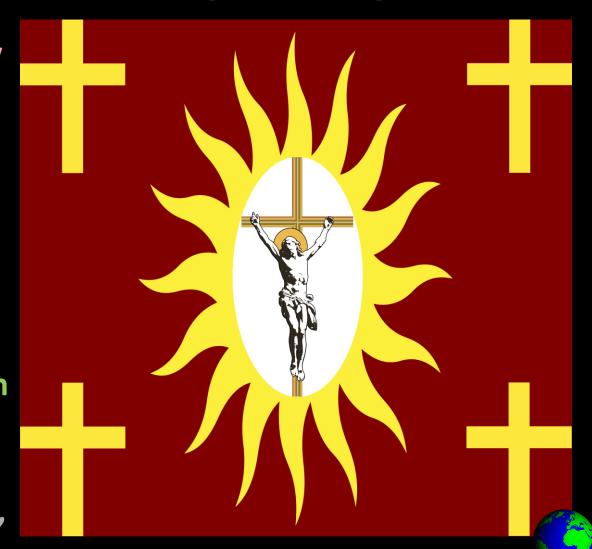


Here Ralph Reed is obviously suffering from historical amnesia and Gibbons is knowingly prevaricating.

Reed continued his speech:

"I want you to know that as Evangelicals we stand shoulder to shoulder with you in insuring that never again will bigotry be directed against Catholics and their religion be used to try and silence them and drive them from the public square."

"I think you know that we have recently launched a division of the Christian Coalition called the Catholic Alliance which is designed to formalize and continue to build bridges in our partnership with Roman Catholics. The Catholic Alliance, like the Catholic Campaign, will be a lay movement."



"When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image to the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result." The Great Controversy, p. 445

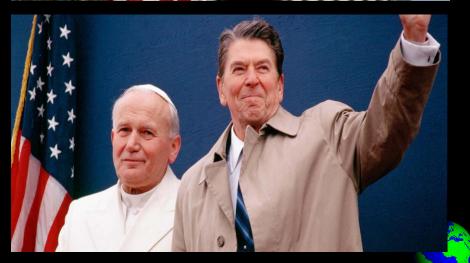
Ralph Reed stated:

"We can no longer afford to be divided. It is a luxury that is no longer ours. The left wants you and I to be divided. Nothing frightens them more than Christians shattering the barriers of denomination." The Amarillo Sunday News Globe, December 10, 1995

He further affirmed:

"Obviously, some teachings are more important than others, and there has to be an agreement on those essential points, while leaving considerable latitude on other points that are less essential to the faith." (Ralph Reed, Our Sunday Visitor, January 14, 1996.)





"I don't know anyone more dedicated to the great fundamental doctrines of Christianity than the Catholics." (W. A. Criswell, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Quoted in, Dave Hunt, A Woman Rides the Beast, p. 388.)

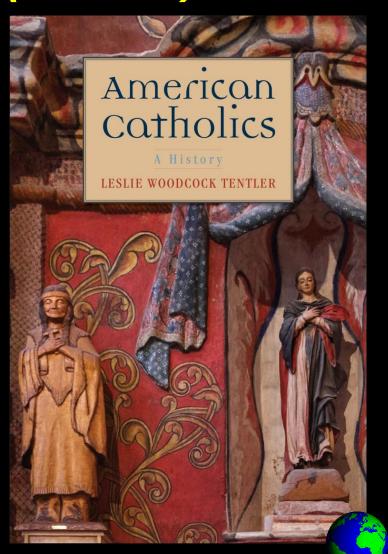
And what does Billy Graham (who for over six decades was the most admired pastor in the United States and the dean of all Protestant evangelists) have to say about Roman Catholicism?

"I've found that my beliefs are essentially the same as those of orthodox Roman Catholics." (Billy Graham, quoted in Dave Hunt, A Woman Rides the Beast, p. 388.)

In 1981 Billy Graham hailed the pope as "the greatest moral leader of the world and the world's greatest evangelist." (Quoted in Michael de Semlyen, All Roads Lead to Rome? p. 170)

US News and World Report quoted Graham as saying:

"World travel and getting to know the clergy of all denominations has helped mold me into an ecumenical being. We're separated by theology and, in some instances by culture and race, but all of that means nothing to me anymore." US News and World Report, December 19, 1988.



When the pope visited Salt Lake City, Billy Graham was interviewed On January 21, 1998 by Larry King on his program Larry King Live. Notice how the dialogue unfolded:

King: "Do you feel comfortable with Salt Lake City? Do you feel comfortable with the Vatican?"

Graham: "Oh, I'm very comfortable with the Vatican. I've been to see the pope several times, and, in fact, the day that he was inaugurated, made pope, I was preaching in his Cathedral in Krakow. I was his guest."

King: "You were preaching in his church the day he was made pope?"

Graham: "That is correct, in Krakow." (Graham chuckled)

King: "You must have been shocked."

Graham: "Of course I was. There was shouting on the streets, you know, the next day: 'Polish pope, Polish pope."

King: "Do you like this pope?"

Graham: "I like him very much. He's very conservative . . . He and I agree on almost everything."





In the Introduction to the book by Keith Fournier, Evangelical Catholics, Charles Colson of Watergate fame and who spearheads Prison Ministries International stated:

"It's high time that all of us who are Christians come together regardless of the differences of our confessions and our traditions and make common cause to bring Christian values to bear in our society. When the barbarians are scaling the walls, there is no time for petty quarrelling in the camp."

An example of this growing intimacy between Protestants and the papacy can be seen by the ecumenical meeting that was held at St. Joseph's Church in Manhattan, New York on Friday, April 18, 2008. No less than 250 leaders from the great mainline Protestant denominations and other Christian organizations in the United States participated including United Methodists, Evangelical Lutherans, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, the National Association of Evangelicals, Presbyterians, the Reformed church, the National Baptist Convention, various Pentecostal groups, Greek Orthodox, Armenian and Episcopalian. Even the Mormons were represented! Fifteen of these leaders were chosen to personally shake the pope's hand.



Pope Benedict XVI stood at the front of the church in his white papal robe and cassock as each of these fifteen representatives came forward to cordially shake his hand; some of them inclining their head to him and all of them uttering kind words. This, in spite of the fact that Benedict has explicitly said that Protestant churches are not true Christian churches. So to speak, Martin Luther must have been rolling over in his grave at such a betrayal of the Protestant Reformation that cost so much sweat, blood and tears!





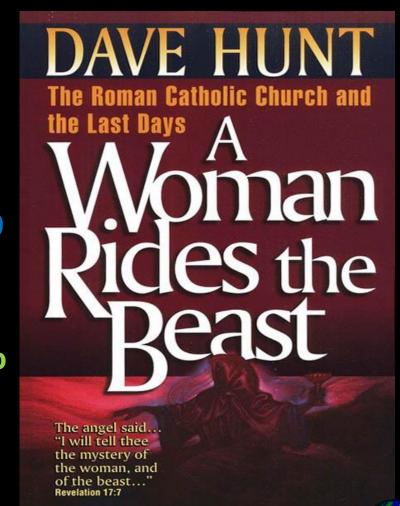


Dave Hunt is one of the few evangelicals which have foreseen the dangers of the Protestant Roman Catholic love affair:

"This indicates that not only Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy will be united, but that Protestants will join together with them, along with all of the world's religions, including even the Muslims, to form one new world religion." A Woman Rides the Beast, p. 39

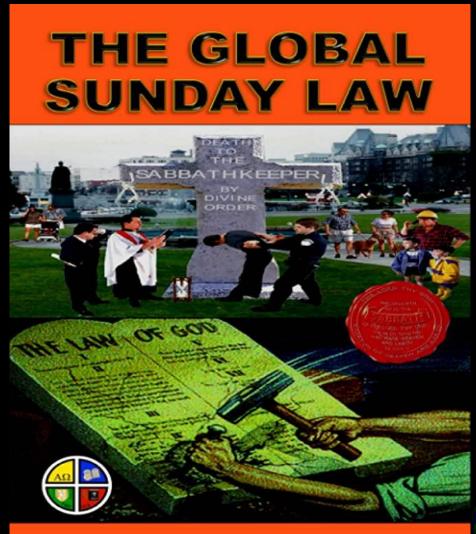
Ellen White sounded an alarm similar to Dave Hunt's:

"Protestants have tampered with and patronized popery; they have made compromises and concessions which papists themselves are surprised to see and fail to understand. Men are closing their eyes to the real character of Romanism and the dangers to be apprehended from her supremacy. The people need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty." The Great Controversy, p. 566

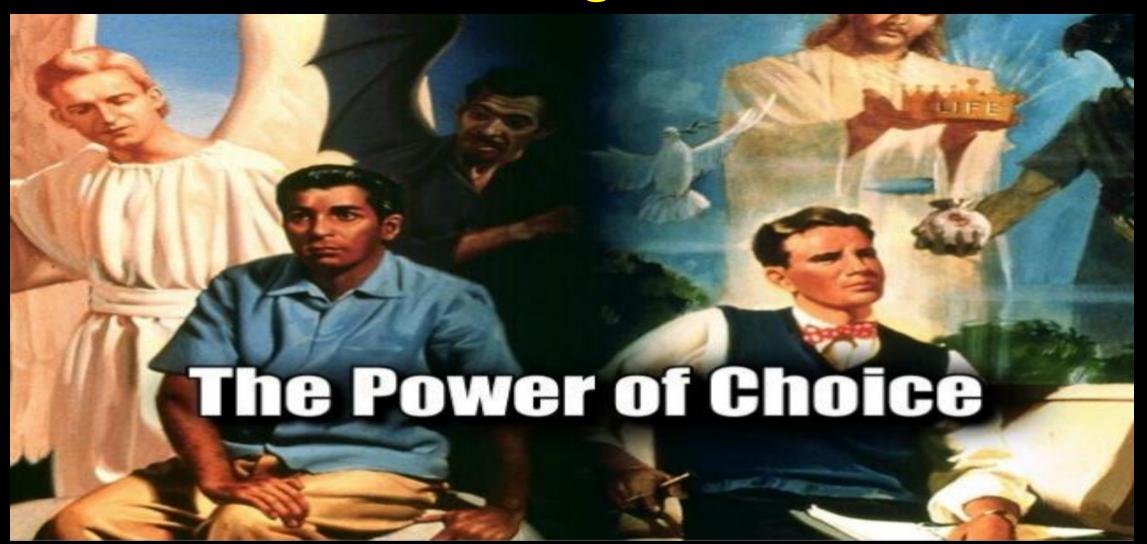


Conclusion

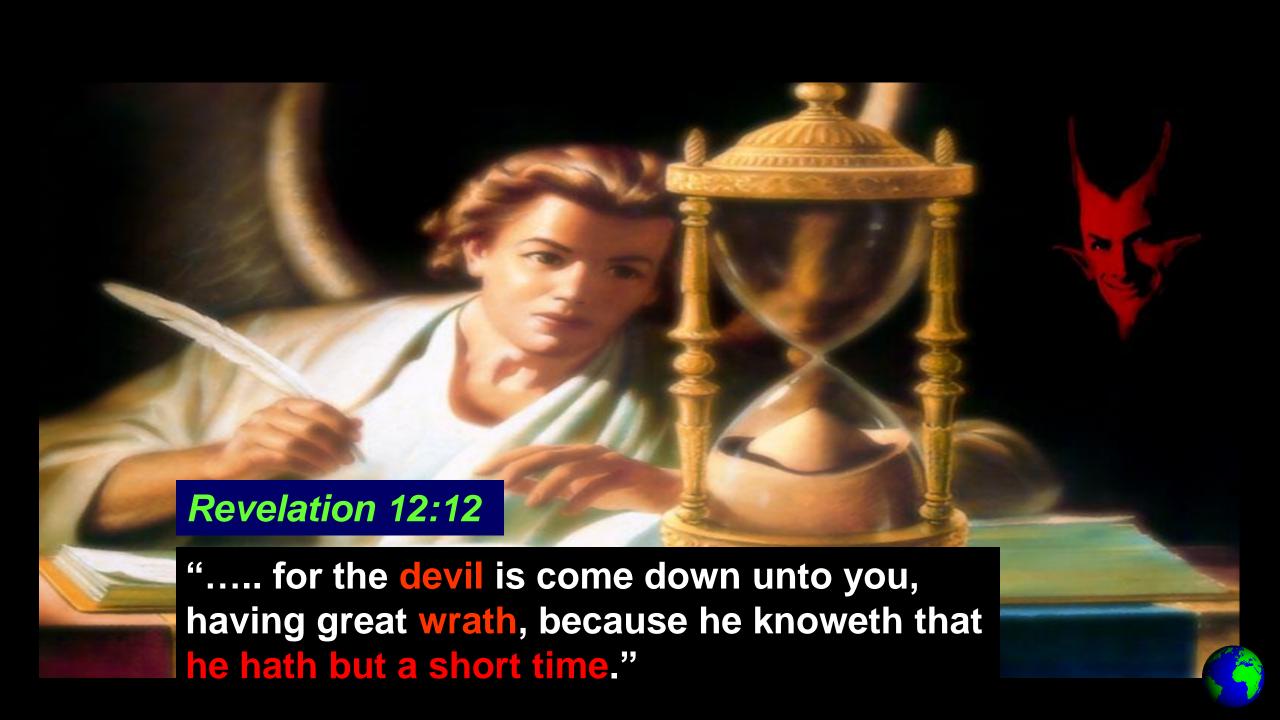
"When the land which the Lord provided as an asylum for His people, that they might worship Him according to the dictates of their own consciences, the land over which for long years the shield of Omnipotence has been spread, the land which God has favoured by making it the depository of the pure religion of Christ--when that land shall, through its legislators, 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 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." Maranatha, p. 179



God has given all:







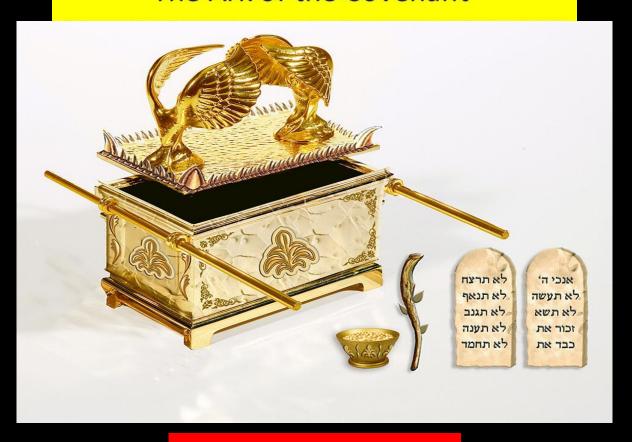
Enter The Ark of Hope

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

