Church and State – Part 9 Beast, Image, Number: Old Testament



Past > Present > Future



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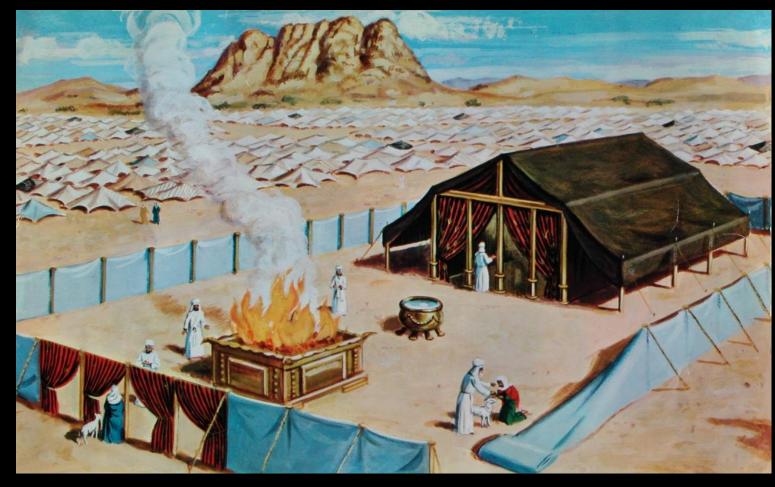
Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and Satan is primarily over "WORSHIP" Who will you Choose?









And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. – Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



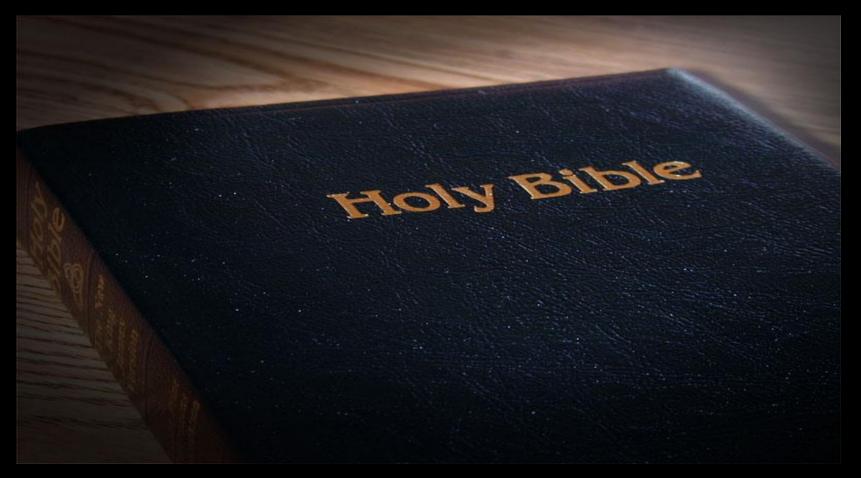
Health Snippet – Asparagus

Health Benefits of Asparagus (Seek Medical Advise) Asparagus, officially known as Asparagus officinalis, is a member of the lily family. This comes in a variety of colors, including green, white and purple. It's used in dishes around the world, including frittatas, pastas and stir-fries. 1. Many Nutrients But Few Calories: ½ cup (90 grams) of cooked asparagus contains - Calories: 20, Protein: 2.2g, Fat: 0.2 g, Fiber: 1.8 g, Vitamin C: 12%, Vitamin A: 18%, Vitamin K: 57%, Folate: 34%, Potassium: 6%, Phosphorous: 5%, Vitamin E: 7% & small amounts iron, zinc & riboflavin. 2. Good Source of Antioxidants: is particularly high in the flavonoids quercetin, isorhamnetin and kaempferol. 3. Can Improve Digestive Health: ½ cup 7% of daily needs. 4. Helps Support a Healthy Pregnancy: ½ cup gives adults 34% daily folate and pregnant women 22% daily needs. 5. Helps Lower Blood Pressure: ½ cup 6% of daily needs. 6. Can Help You Lose Weight: features that make it weightloss food - low in calories, high in water and rich in fibre. 7. Easy to Add to Your Diet: salads, frittatas, stir-fries, etc...

• When shopping for fresh asparagus, look for firm stems and tight, closed tips.

Health Benefits Of Asparagus Helps fetal development Reduces risk of depression Helps to fight PMS Care for your heart Helps improve fertility Helps in digestion Helps in preventing Helps to fight tumor osteoporosis Helps in maintaining Prevents cancer blood sugar levels

Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



Yes we Can

Revelation 17:12 KJV

And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.





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Past > Present > Future



Introduction

Let's look at a interview on the number 666...

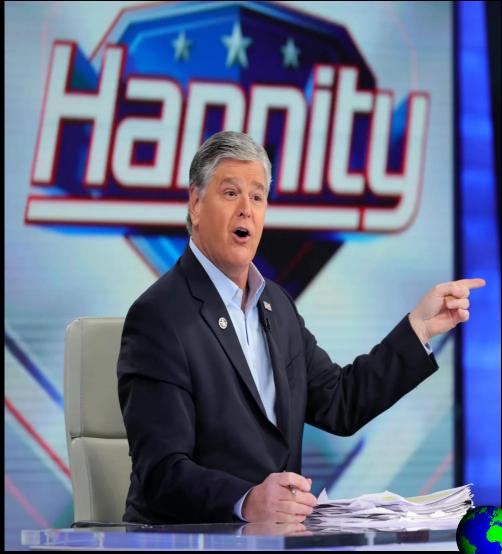
SEAN HANNITY, FOX HOST: Welcome back to "Hannity's America." 666, you have seen these terrifying digits, but do you know what they stand for? Tonight, we look at the demonic numbers in the "Beyond Belief" segment. HANNITY (voice-over): 666, you have seen these numbers everywhere, road signs, bar codes, tattoos, dates on the calendar, Hollywood films. For many, the number is nothing short of terrifying. They believe it is the devil's number. Three digits that personify unspeakable evil foreshadowing the end of time. Is 666 really all we have come to believe it is?

FR. EDWARD L. BECK, C.P., AUTHOR, "SOUL PROVIDER": 666, because they say the beast and the force of evil, a lot of people have equated that with the devil, because traditionally Satan has been the force of evil.



HANNITY: In the final book of the New Testament, the Book of Revelation, it tells of impending doom, the end of time when a great war between the forces of good and evil will be fought. Ultimately, God will triumph, but the personification of evil comes at this time and in the form of the Antichrist or the Beast, bearing the number 666. Revelation 13, mentions that the people will receive the mark of the beast in their right hand or forehead. The Bible is not clear what the mark will be. Many avoid speculation since the Bible specifically doesn't give detailed information about the nature of this mark.

BECK: There's always caution when you speculate on what the Bible means because everybody is going to interpret it in a different way. It's a religious imagery of poetry almost that tries to explain a deeper truth about goodness and evil.

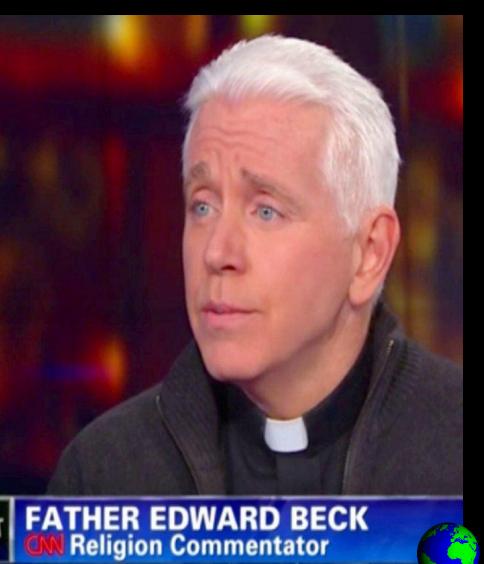


HANNITY: For church followers, 6 is seen as representing that which is short of perfection and a representation of sin. Repeated three times, such a number is made complete. It is also argued that 666 might represent an unholy trinity. The Bible is full of 7's to symbolize completeness. Six could symbolize the incomplete power of evil.

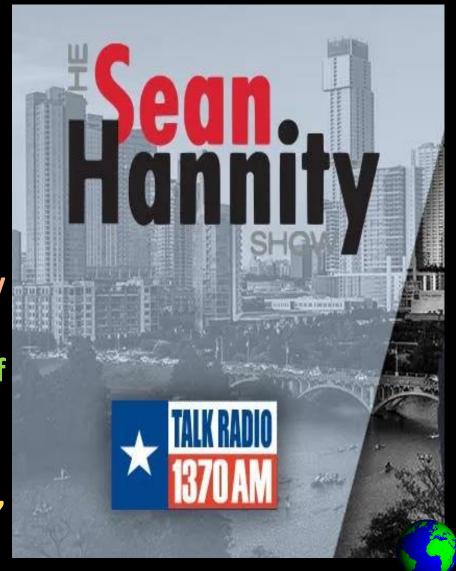
Why is 666 the number assigned to, quote, "the beast"?

BECK: In the scripture, God is related to the perfect number 7. In the Book of Revelation, it says that the beast is man, the beast is human kind. We are 666. And there's the potential for evil in all of us. We will always be less than 7.

HANNITY: Many use numerology to try to explain this diabolical number. For almost 2,000 years, people have been adding, subtracting, permeating and slicing numbers to come up with why 666 and who the beast bearing the digits might be.



- **BECK**: This evil may be the Roman emperor, Nero. **Some say it referred to**. If you put Caesar, Nero and take the numerology of that name, the Roman numerals, it is 666. That is a veiled way of talking about Nero.
- **HANNITY**: Some have even linked the number to the holiest of Catholic institutions.
- **BECK**: Actually, it was Pope John Paul II. If you look at his Latin name, loannes Paulus Secundo, and you take the Roman numerals from that name, guess what they add up to? 666. If you take the Latin name that refers to all popes, Vicarius Filii Dei, which means vicar of the Son of God, if you take the Roman numerals out of these, guess what they add up to? 666.
- HANNITY: Other numerical hypothesis argue that if you number the English alphabet, A equals 100, B equals 101, C equals 102, and so on. Using that theory, Adolph Hitler equals 666. Even the worldwide web has been acquainted by some as the beast.



BECK: In Hebrew, there aren't characters for numbers they are letters. The letter W is VA, which number equivalent is 6. So if you have worldwide web, www., it's 666. So some would attribute some of our downfall, our modern down fall or decadence, if you will, to the Internet. **HANNITY: There are no shortage of** theories when it comes to the number 666 or what or who it may represent. In fact, no consensus exists in the ecclesiastical world. We know is that these three numbers have been fuelled by centuries of human fear and fascination with evil, between Hollywood movies that capitalize on our demonic exceptions and conspiracy theorists who manipulate math and language to push people into believing the apocalypse is finally upon us.





But putting the crazy fringe theories aside and abandoning literal interpretations of the Book of Revelation, perhaps this nefarious number that's evaded our every day vernacular is meant to serve a bigger purpose.

BECK: The deeply important lesson of the Book of Revelation and the whole notion of 666 is that evil is a force. I think what this lesson is, from the Book of Revelation, is that good will over come it, but we have to be vigilant about it.

HANNITY: So is 666 nothing more than a symbolic warning of evil in all of us? Or are the numbers truly the embodiment of the devil himself or maybe the mark of the beast is just "Beyond Belief."

Today we will study the Beast, Image, Number in the Old Testament Background:



Connection between Daniel 2 and 3

- God had delineated in Daniel 2 the sequence of kingdoms that would arise between the days of Nebuchadnezzar and the second coming of Jesus
- Nebuchadnezzar did not like the scenario that God had presented and he attempted to change God's prophetic scenario
- This idea came from the religious leaders (Prophets and Kings, pp. 504-505)
- The word "gold" in Daniel 2 & 3 links the chapters
- The word "image" is identical in both chapters
- The expression "set up" is repeatedly used in the chapter
- Remember that in Daniel 2 God had stated that He was going to "set up" his indestructible kingdom (3:1, 2, 3, 7, 12, 14, 15, 18)



Babylon was the ruling power in the world of the time (Daniel 3:1)

"Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon."

God's people were captive in Babylon (Jeremiah 51:45)

"My people, go out of the midst of her! And let everyone deliver himself from the fierce anger of the Lord."

Nebuchadnezzar for a time lived as a beast (Daniel 4:16)

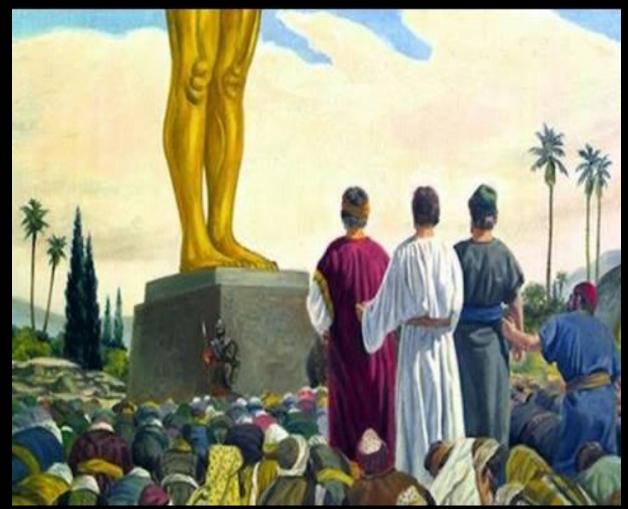
"Let his heart be changed from that of a man, let him be given the heart of a beast, and let seven times pass over him."



Nebuchadnezzar set up an image in his honor. Repeatedly Daniel 3 quotes Nebuchadnezzar using the expression 'which I have set up' The dimensions of the image were 60 x 6 (Daniel 3:1)

"Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon."

"Babylonian mathematics was based on the sexagesimal system, in which the basic counting units were the numbers 6 and 60. The sexagesimal system has been accepted universally for the measurement of arcs and angles and for divisions of time." (Ranko Stefanovic, Revelation of Jesus Christ, p. 417)



- If what Herodotus says is correct, the image weighed 800 talents of gold which would be equivalent to over 30 tons (Daniel 3:1)
- Sexagesimal system originated in Babylon (60 seconds, 60 minutes, 24 hours, 360 days, 360 degrees)
- If we multiply 60 x 6 the total is 360 which was a very sacred number in Babylon
- 360 degrees and 360 days represent the full cycle of time and the full circle of space
- Each of 36 gods of the pantheon ruled each over 10 degrees of space and 10 degrees of time
- The sum of the numbers 1-36 is 666 and the number 666 was known as "the great number of the sun." All the gods were thus included in this one summary number. In Babylon the sun god was called Marduk. He was thought of as the absolute ruler of all time and all space.
- The Babylonian priestly system expressed this concept by wearing amulets or medallions around their necks

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• The medallions were made of pure gold because gold is the colour of the sun. In fact the ancients called gold "the dew of the sun." It is no coincidence that in Isaiah 14:4

Babylon is called the golden kingdom and that in Daniel 2 Babylon is represented by the head of gold. The medallions or amulets were circular (like the sun) and had a hexagon within the amulet

• On the obverse (front) side of the amulet there was a large square with 36 smaller squares within. In each square there was a number from 1-36 and beneath the large square was the number 666.

• On the reverse side of the seal or amulet there was a raging lion with wings (yellow in colour like the sun) whose mane is portrayed as the rays of the sun. Babylon is portrayed as a lion in Daniel 7 and also in sphinxes which were at each of the entrances to the city.



- In astrology, Leo, the lion, rules over the hottest period of the year (July 23-August 22)
- The Romans acquired much of their religious system from Babylon but they established a different number system. They chose six letters from their Latin alphabet and gave each a numerical value. The sum total of all six numbers is 666.
- Thus the number 666 is to be identified with Babylon and with Rome (also called Babylon in 1 Peter 5:13)
- Thus those who worshipped the image would be honouring Babylon and worshiping the sun god whose number is 666





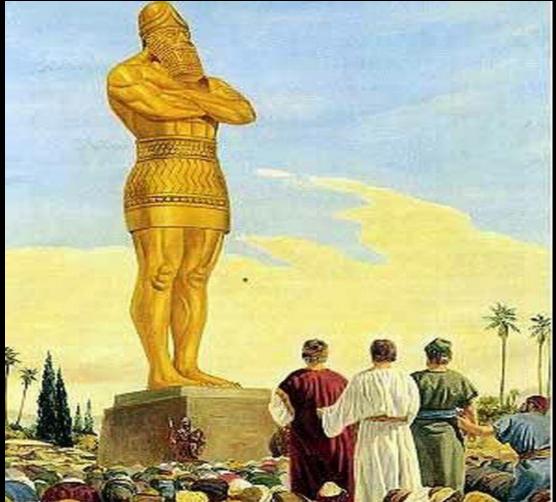
The primary issue in this controversy was worship!

• The question was who will you worship: the image or the true God (Daniel 3:28)

• "Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!"

• This word is used 10 times in the chapter (Daniel 3:5-7, 10-12, 14, 15, 18, 28).

• The law of God is also involved, primarily the first table which has to do with worship to the true God.



We worship God because He is the Creator (Psalm 95:6) and the sign of worship to the Creator is the Sabbath (Revelation 14:7) There was and The primary issue in this controversy was

- There was a union of church and state (Daniel 3:2)
- Notice all the political rulers who were present in order of rank. All the civil powers of the Babylonian world were present there.
- The government was enforcing a religious decree. To not worship is treason against the government.
- If I have time, talk about the establishment clause and the free exercise clauses of the Constitution as revealed in Daniel 3 and Daniel 6

The primary issue in this controversy was worship! (cont'd)

The decree to worship was universal (Daniel 3:4)

Music played a significant role in connection with false worship (Daniel 3:5, 7, 10, 15)

A death decree against those who do not worship the image of the beast (Daniel 3:6, 11, 15, 19)

A faithful, insignificant remnant stood on the Lord's side. If the king could eradicate them his triumph would be complete (Daniel 3:12)

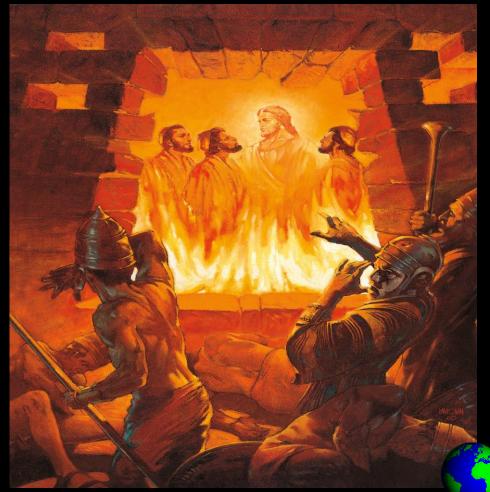
The religious leaders accused the three young men to the civil power (Daniel 2:2, 4, 5, 10, 12; 3:9-12)



There was a shaking in the Valley of Dura (Daniel 1:3)

• When Nebuchadnezzar took Daniel and his three friends captive he left Zedekiah (2 Kings 24:14-17) to rule in Jerusalem.

- In the year 594 (Jeremiah 51:59) King Zedekiah made a trip to Babylon. It is inconceivable that he was not there.
- Nebuchadnezzar attempted to intimidate the remnant who kept the commandments of God and worshipped only Him (Daniel 3:15)
- <u>Three steps</u>: Fascination, intimidation, annihilation
- Ellen White makes a very insightful remark. She says that the king spoke the words in the first part of Daniel 3:15 and then "with hand stretched upward in defiance" (Signs of the Times, May 6, 1897) he pronounced the last words of the verse.



There was a shaking in the Valley of Dura (Daniel 1:3) (cont'd)

The answer of the faithful remnant (Daniel 3:16-18) and the king's rage (Daniel 3:19)

- Ellen White vividly describes the face of Nebuchadnezzar after the young men spoke:
- "Satanic attributes made his countenance appear as the countenance of a demon." (4BC 1169)
- God would shortly answer this charge: "I will deliver them." (husband/wife; sovereign/ subject; body/head; shepherd/sheep).
- The same mistake that Pharaoh made at the Red Sea—stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. The Lord fights for Israel
- Time of trouble for the three young men (Daniel 3:20-23)



There was a shaking in the Valley of Dura (Daniel 1:3) (cont'd)

- They faced the beast, his image and the civil rulers without flinching. There was no human way to survive.
- Furnace heated seven times hotter (Daniel 3:19)
- The maximum heat. Seven represents totality.
- The furnace represents affliction by which God purifies his people (Isaiah 48:10; 13:12; Job 23:10; Malachi 3:2, 3)
- The young men claimed the promise of Isaiah 43:2
- Their tormentors died instead (Daniel 3:22)



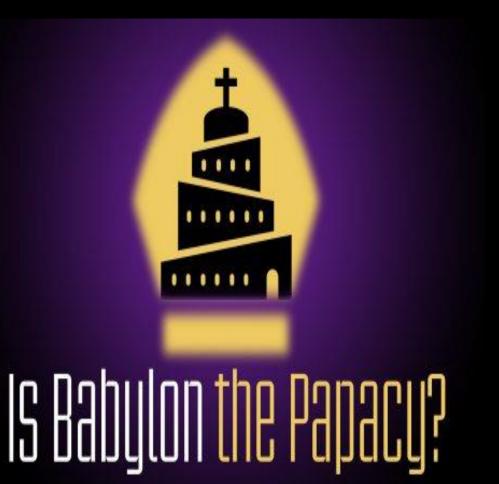
There was a shaking in the Valley of Dura (Daniel 1:3) (cont'd)

- Christ Himself stood up to deliver His faithful remnant in the midst of the time of trouble
- Notice that the Son of God is the Angel (Daniel 3:25, 28)
- They went through the tribulation but were shielded by divine power (Daniel 3:24-27)
- Christ is the Hero, not the young men!! The key word in this passage is deliver which is used (Daniel 3:15, 17, 28, 29)
- If you are with Him He will be with you.
- He requires full and complete allegiance not half-hearted service!



End time application of Daniel 3:

- Literal Israel was literally captive in literal Babylon, the literal king behaves like a literal beast, sets up a literal image, commanding everyone to literally bow and worship it, and literal Jews refuse to literally bow and therefore are thrown into a literal fiery furnace and are delivered from the literal flames
- The power which will rule the world in the endtime will be Babylon (Revelation 17:1, 2, 5).
- She will present a false prophetic scenario wanting to establish a new world order different than the new world order which Jesus will bring:
- God's people will once again be captive in Babylon (Revelation 18:4)
- There will be a power described as the beast (Revelation 13:1-2)
- The beast will raise up an image (Revelation 13:11-18)





The mark of the beast will be imposed by force

• It is the opposite of the seal of God. The seal of God is the Sabbath so the mark of the beast must be a contrary day.

• Revelation 14:7 calls us to worship the creator in contrast to worshipping the beast and his image (Revelation 14:9-11)

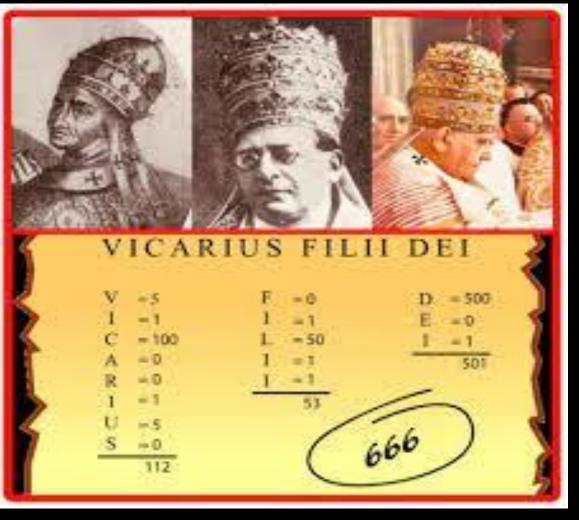
Ellen White remarks:

• "An idol sabbath has been set up, as the golden image was set up in the plains of Dura. And as Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, issued a decree that all who would not bow down and worship this image should be killed, so a proclamation will be made that all who will not reverence the Sunday institution will be punished with imprisonment and death." 14MR p. 91

The image and mark must have something to do with the sun!

- Is it the same to worship the sun as it is to worship on Sunday?
- Vicarius Filii Dei and Antichrist have the same basic meaning: One who takes the place of Christ
- **Ellen White makes the parallel**:

"History will be repeated. False religion will be exalted. The first day of the week, a common working day, possessing no sanctity whatever, will be set up as was the image at Babylon. All nations and tongues and peoples will be commanded to worship this spurious sabbath. This is Satan's plan to make of no account the day instituted by God, and given to the world as a memorial of creation." 7BC p. 976



The image and mark must have something to do with the sun! (cont'd)

Once again worship will be the central issue and it will be worldwide (Revelation 13:4, 8, 12, 15; 14:7, 9)

"The decree enforcing the worship of this day is to go forth to all the world." 7BC p. 967

But the commandments will also be an issue, especially the first table of the law (Revelation 12:17)

There will be a union of church and state (Revelation 17:2; 18:3)

A death decree will be proclaimed against God's faithful remnant (Revelation 13:15)

This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who prove their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast.

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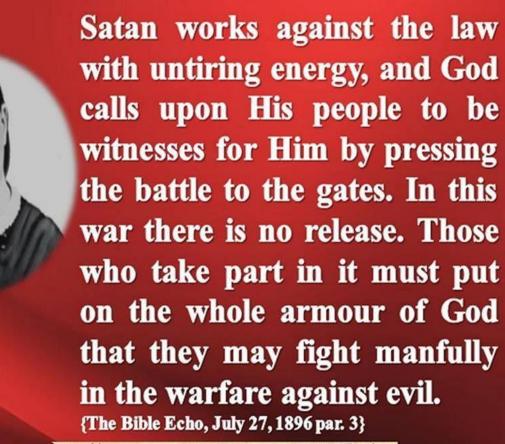
The image and mark must have something to do with the sun! (cont'd)

The death decree will be universal (Revelation 3:15, 16)

• "As the Sabbath has become the special point of controversy throughout Christendom, and religious and secular authorities have combined to enforce the observance of the Sunday, the persistent refusal of a small minority to yield to the popular demand will make them objects of universal execration." The Great Controversy, p. 615

Music and external display will play a significant role in the end time (Revelation 18:22)

• Satan know what type of music to use to dull our spiritual senses and make us more susceptible to his temptations.

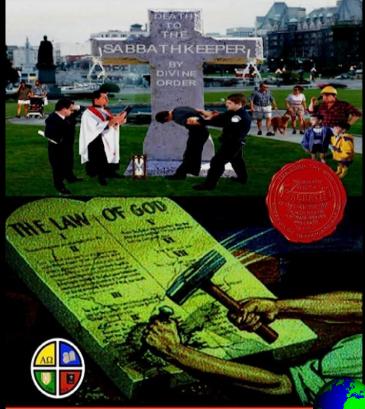


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The Pen of Inspiration says...

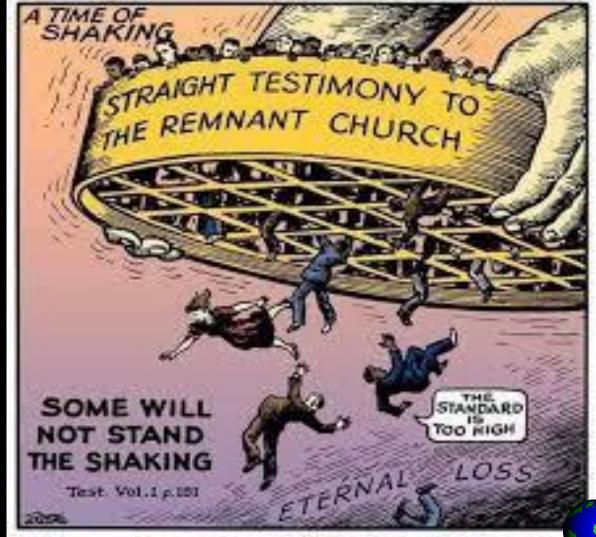
"Many Protestants suppose that the Catholic religion is unattractive and that its worship is a dull, meaningless round of ceremony. Here they mistake. While Romanism is based upon deception, it is not a coarse and clumsy imposture. The religious service of the Roman Church is a most impressive ceremonial. Its gorgeous display and solemn rites fascinate the senses of the people and silence the voice of reason and of conscience. The eye is charmed. Magnificent churches, imposing processions, golden altars, jewelled shrines, choice paintings, and exquisite sculpture appeal to the love of beauty. The ear also is captivated. The music is unsurpassed. The rich notes of the deep-toned organ, blending with the melody of many voices as it swells through the lofty domes and pillared aisles of her grand cathedrals, cannot fail to impress the mind with awe and reverence. This outward splendour, pomp, and ceremony, that only mocks the longings of the sin-sick soul, is an evidence of inward corruption. The religion of Christ needs not such attractions to recommend it. In the light shining from the cross, true Christianity appears so pure and lovely that no external decorations can enhance its true worth. It is the beauty of holiness, a meek and quiet spirit, which is of value with God." The Great Controversy, pp. 566, 567

THE GLOBAL SUNDAY LAW



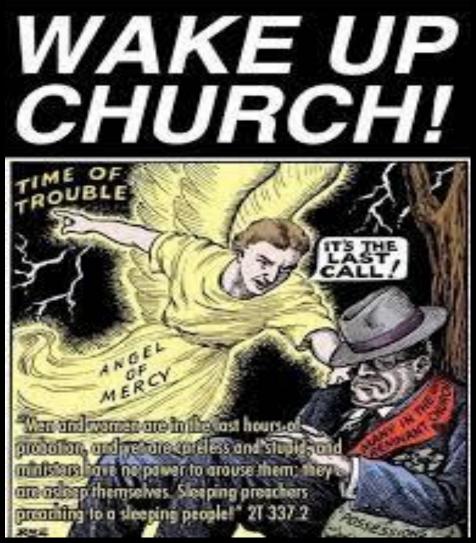
There will be a shaking!

- God will have a faithful remnant who will refuse to worship the image to the beast (Revelation 12:17; 14:12; 15:2-4)
- There will be a shaking among God's people (Matthew 24:10-12)
- "To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsakes us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few--this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. The nation will be on the side of the great rebel leader." (5T 136)



A storm is Coming!

"As the storm approaches, a large class who has professed faith in the third angel's message, but has not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbath keepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them." The Great Controversy, p. 608



Religious leaders will be the foremost to accuse the remnant of God

• Just like in the days of Elijah, John the Baptist, Jesus and the middle ages:

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

The law for the observance of the first day of the week is the production of an apostate Christendom. Sunday is a child of the Papacy, exalted by the Christian world above the sacred day of God's rest. In no case are God's people to pay it homage. Mariana Mila 178 d

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Satan will manifest his wrath

"As the controversy extends into new fields and the minds of the people are called to God's downtrodden law, Satan is astir. The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it. The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light lest it should shine upon their flocks. By every means at their command they will endeavour to suppress the discussion of these vital questions." The Great Controversy, p. 607

Satan will manifest his wrath (Revelation 12:17)

There will be a similar question as was asked by Nebuchadnezzar (Revelation 13:3, 4)



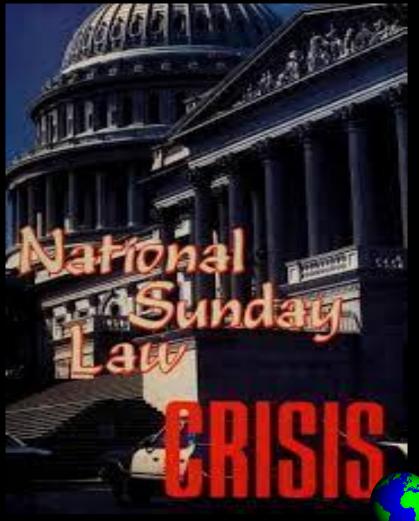
There will be a severe time of trouble and God's people will appear doomed.

• Daniel 11 has the sequence: King of the north goes out to annihilate many then Michael stands up to defend his people, then they are delivered.

• "He numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete." The Great Controversy, p. 618

• The fiery furnace is the seven last plagues where the totality of God's wrath is to be poured out. The wicked will be destroyed but not the righteous

• "Their affliction is great, the flames of the furnace seem about to consume them; but the Refiner will bring them forth as gold tried in the fire. God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity; but it is needful for them to be placed in the furnace of fire; their earthliness must be consumed, that the image of Christ may be perfectly reflected." The Great Controversy, p. 621



Jesus will personally intervene to deliver His people!

"When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof. The people of God—some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains—still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen." The Great Controversy, p. 635



God will demand unswerving loyalty:

"The season of distress before God's people will call for a faith that will not falter. His children must make it manifest that He is the only object of their worship, and that no consideration, not even that of life itself, can induce them to make the least concession to false worship. To the loyal heart the commands of sinful, finite men will sink into insignificance beside the word of the eternal God. Truth will be obeyed though the result be imprisonment or exile or death." Prophets and Kings, pp. 512, 513

A fireproof character is needed

• Isaiah 33:14-16. We must have a sterling character. Be faithful in the small things (Luke 16:10; Jeremiah 12:5)



The Song of Moses

Revelation 15:2, 3: What does Moses have to do with the final deliverance of God's people? Whenever the book of Revelation mentions an expression from an Old Testament story, the entire story must be studied for parallels with the end time.

"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.!"

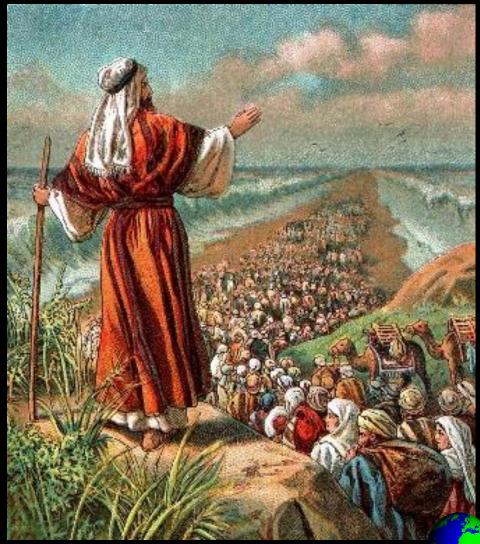


The oppressor of Israel was the dragon

Exodus 2:23-25: God's people in bondage serving Pharaoh. God wanted Israel to serve Him but in order for this to happen He had to deliver them from Pharaoh first.

"And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them."

Ezekiel 29:3: The oppressor of Israel was the dragon "Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself."



God promised to give Moses words to speak

Exodus 4:10-11: Moses had to learn the lesson of humility. He had to go to the desert for 40 years to unlearn much of what he had learned in Egypt and to learn what he needed to know to be the leader of Israel.

"And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?"

Exodus 4:12: God promised to give Moses words to speak

"Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say."



Sabbath observance in Egypt impossible

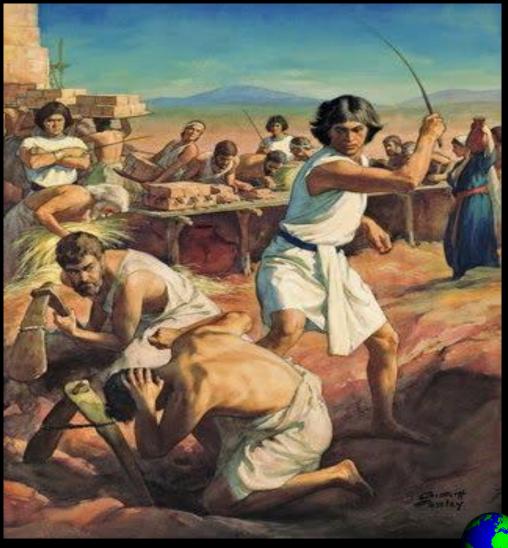
Exodus 8:1 (also 5:1; 7:16; 9:1): Moses was sent to Pharaoh to tell him to let Israel go so that they could serve and worship the LORD.

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me."

God performed powerful miracles through His people. Satan also performed counterfeit miracles to fasten the apostates in his camp.

Exodus 5:4, 5: Moses told Pharaoh to allow Israel to go out to the wilderness to celebrate the Sabbath. Sabbath observance in Egypt was wellnigh impossible.

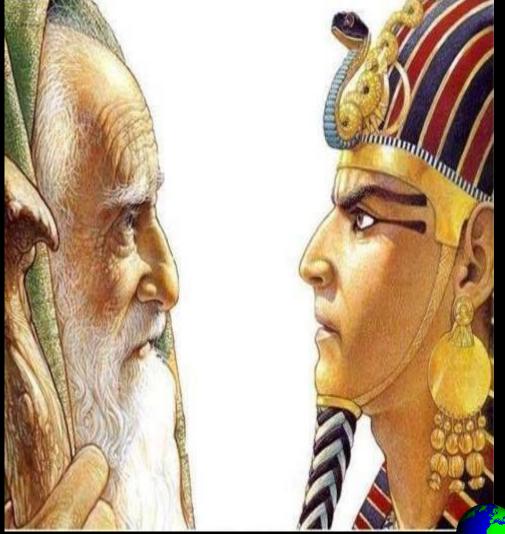
"And the king of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works? get you unto your burdens. And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them rest from their burdens."



Sabbath observance enraged Pharaoh

"In their bondage the Israelites had to some extent lost the knowledge of God's law, and they had departed from its precepts. The Sabbath had been generally disregarded, and the exactions of their taskmasters made its observance apparently impossible. But Moses had shown his people that obedience to God was the first condition of deliverance; and the efforts made to restore the observance of the Sabbath had come to the notice of their oppressors." (PP 258)

Sabbath observance enraged Pharaoh. Desire to observe the Sabbath made the bondage of God's people all the more bitter. The Egyptians did not repent at the plagues (in Revelation we are told that the wicked did not repent when the plagues fell). The calamities in nature led to hardened the wicked against God's people. Each plague increased the rage. They felt that God's people were to blame.



Israelite homes were sealed for salvation

Exodus 10:28, 29: Moses told Pharaoh that he would no longer see his face.

"And Pharaoh said unto him, Get thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in that day thou seest my face thou shalt die. And Moses said, Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more."

Psalm 27:9, 10: Hiding the face is a sign of being forsaken by God.

"Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up."

Exodus 12:7, 13: The Israelite homes were sealed for salvation. "And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt."



Pharaoh uttered a death decree against God's people!

Exodus 13:21, 22: Israel was led and protected in their exodus by the pillar of fire. The Lord was in the pillar of fire (Exodus 14:19, 24: The Angel is the LORD; just like in Daniel 3:28)

"And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people."

Exodus 14:3: Pharaoh uttered a death decree against God's people. Israel was shut in and there was no human way of escape. The location was at the western end of the Gulf of Akaba.

"For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in."

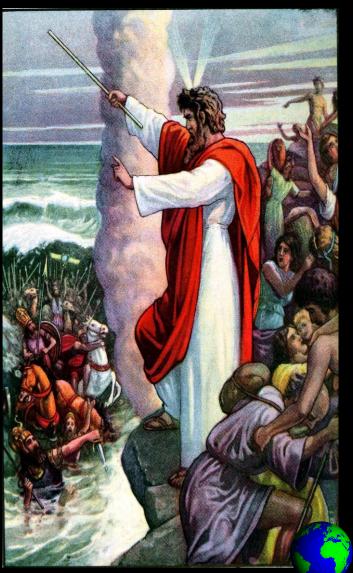


There seemed no escape and no hope

Exodus 14:5-9: Pharaoh was filled with wrath because he had let Israel go so he prepared his armies for battle. There was no escape and no hope—Israel was defenceless!

"And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us? And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him: And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them. And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand. But the the children of Israel went out with an high hand. But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon."

"The Hebrews were encamped beside the sea, whose waters presented a seemingly impassable barrier before them, while on the south a rugged mountain obstructed their further progress." Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 283, 284



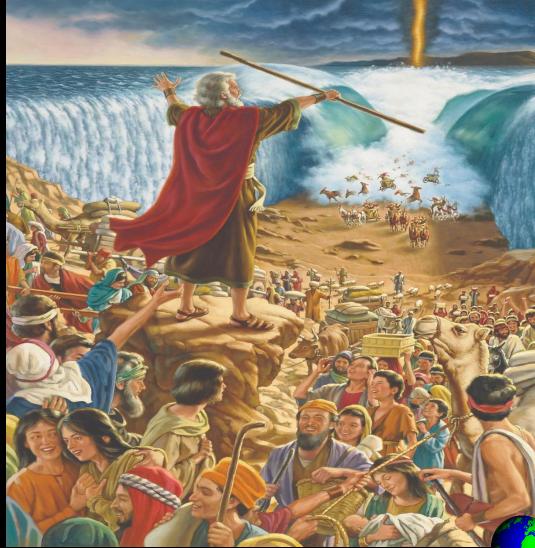
Moses said: Lord would fight for them

Exodus 14:10: A horrendous time of trouble ensued and the people cried out to the Lord for deliverance

"And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD."

Exodus 14:13, 14: Moses encouraged Israel by informing that the Lord would fight for them. Israel simply needed to trust in the Lord—this is righteousness by faith at its best!

"And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."



God's guiding Hand!

Exodus 14:16: The rod of Moses divided or dried up the waters.

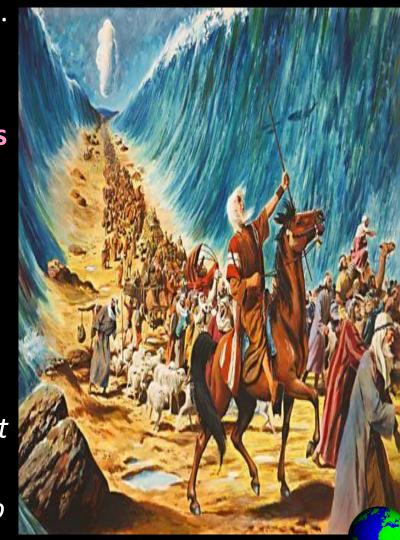
"But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea."

Exodus 14:21: The waters dried up and were divided. Up to this point the waters were an obstacle to the escape of God's people. As long as the waters were united there was no escape.

"And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided."

Exodus 14:19, 20: Light upon God's people and darkness upon their enemies.

"And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night."

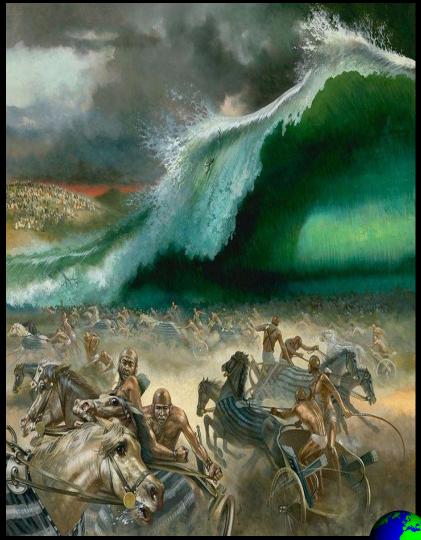


The battlefield turns in favour of Israel

"But now, as the Egyptian host approached them expecting to make them an easy prey, the cloudy column rose majestically into the heavens, passed over the Israelites, and descended between them and the armies of Egypt. A wall of darkness interposed between the pursued and their pursuers. The Egyptians could no longer discern the camp of the Hebrews, and were forced to halt. But as the darkness of night deepened, the wall of cloud became a great light to the Hebrews, flooding the entire encampment with the radiance of day." (PP 286, 287)

Exodus 14:24, 25: God now took the battlefield in favour of Israel. The Egyptians were confused and sought to retreat. In fighting the people of God, the Egyptians were fighting the God of the people.

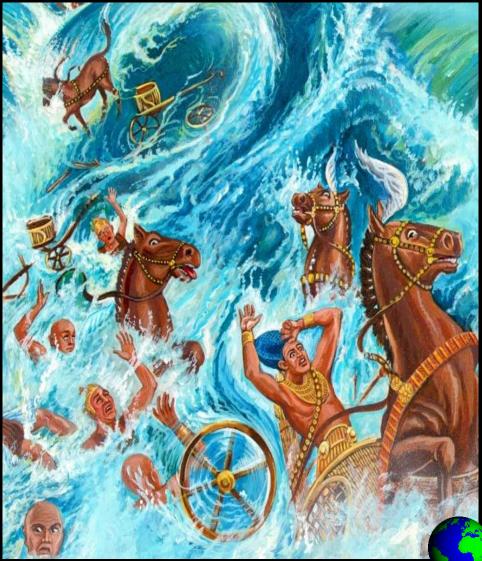
"And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians."



God turned them against the Egyptians

Exodus 14:26-31: The waters that had been inimical to God's people turned on the Egyptians. God dried up the waters and turned them against the Egyptians.

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses."



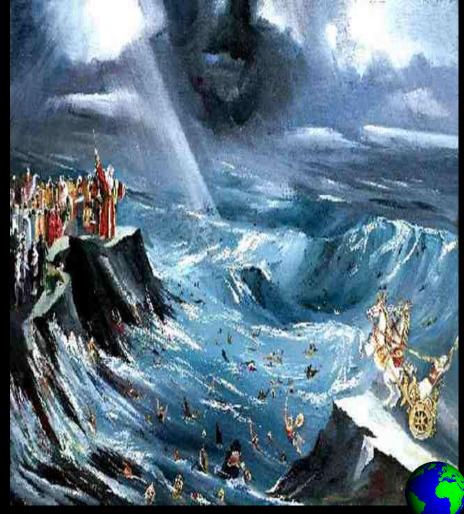
A path was prepared for the escape of God's people!

Psalm 77:15-20: A path was prepared for the escape of God's people. Their deliverance was accompanied by thunder, an earthquake, hail and lighting.

"Thou hast with thine arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah. The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled. The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad. The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook. Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron."

Exodus 14:24, 27: Destruction came at the time of the rising sun.

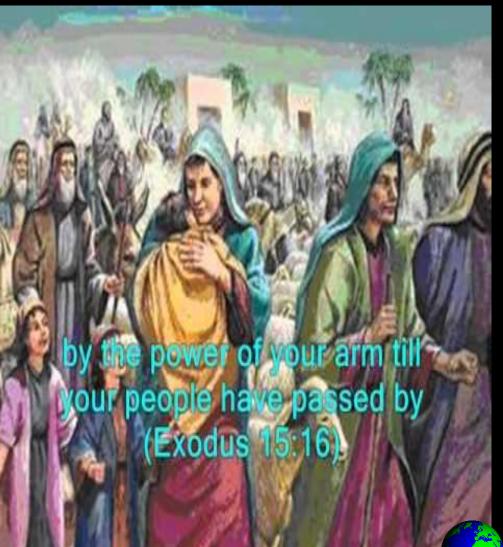
Exodus 14:28: Not one of Israel's enemies remained



Song of Moses was then sung by

the people of God.

"Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea. The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone. Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy. And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble. And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea."



Song of Moses was then sung! (cont'd)

Exodus 15:9-16: "The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them. Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters. Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them. Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation. The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina. Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away. Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased."



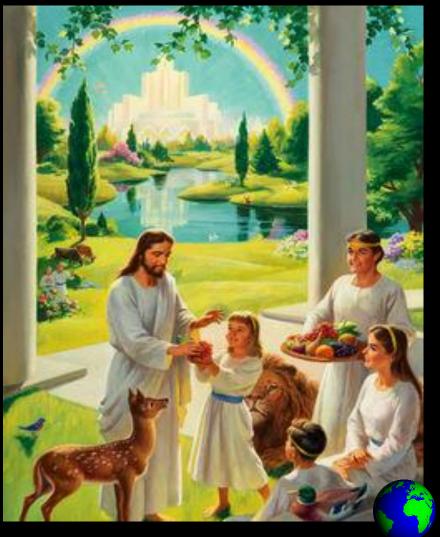
Characteristics of those who will dwell on God's holy hill

Exodus 15:17, 18: God then took Israel to the Mount of His inheritance in the Promised Land

"Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established. The LORD shall reign for ever and ever."

Psalm 15:1-5: Characteristics of those who will dwell on God's holy hill

"(A Psalm of David.) LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved."



God has given all:

The Power of Choice

Revelation 12:12

"..... for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

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

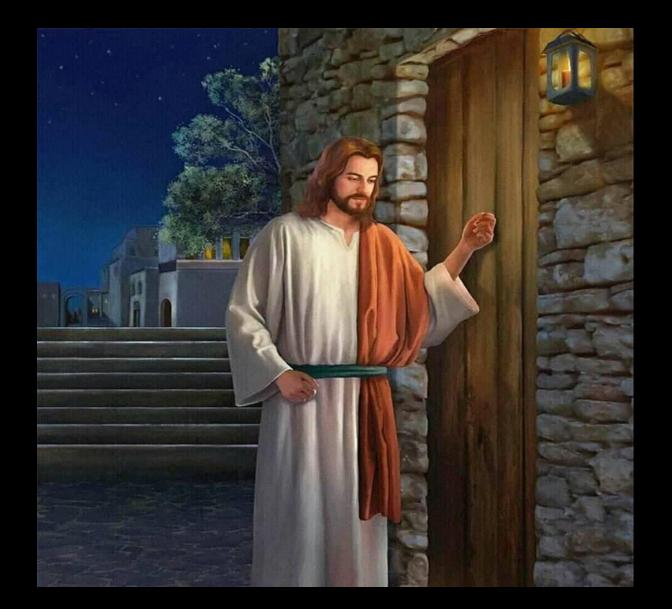
The Ark of the Covenant







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





ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?