

# WE ARE NEARING THE END

## FOR THE FIRST TRIGGER EVENT BEFORE THE FINAL CRISIS HAS BEGUN !

# The Protestant-Catholic Union

PART ONE OF TWO

I never set time prophecies. But, as I prepare to release our large, one-volume *End of Time* book, containing the largest, classified collection of Spirit of Prophecy statements on last-day events,—it is quite obvious that **the first major event preceding the National Sunday Law is in the process of beginning!** Please read *Christian Churches Together* (WM-1252) and *Edging Closer to the Sunday Law* (WM-1253); both recently released.

**For the first time in history, the major Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox churches have united in a single organization, admittedly for the purpose of achieving objectives “they hold in common.”** In light of repeated Spirit of Prophecy warnings, this is a stupendous event! Both the NCC in America and the WCC in Geneva have expressed astonishment, declaring that *Christian Churches Together* (CCT) is doing that which all the earlier ecumenical organizations were never able to do: Finally nearly every denomination, large and small—including the Orthodox and Catholic—is brought into full membership, *and for a specific purpose: to achieve common objectives.*

**All the more ominous is the fact that the Roman Catholic Church was not dragged into this,—but actually originated the plan** for the new multi-lateral church organization and then got it started! To add to the significance, the United States was specifically targeted as the home base for the new megachurch structure. **Headquartered here, its objectives will first be carried out in America. It will be a political powerhouse.**

According to official statements, the groundwork was laid in the summer of 2001, when four leading religious leaders in America—two of which were high-level Catholic bishops—met in the archbishop’s palace in Baltimore. They then sent out invitations to every Protestant and Orthodox church in America to join their new venture.

You can know, with certainty, that this new interfaith organization was initially planned in detail at the Vatican. No Baltimore archbishop would dare start such a project on his own.

**Then, on January 29, 2003, representatives from more than 40 denominations and Christian organizations met** at Fuller Theological Seminary (Pasadena, CA) and signed the charter establishing CCT, with themselves as full members. This includes many conservative semi-political groups.

Very coyly, as if to hide the fact that Rome was behind the whole project, the U.S. Conference of Catholics did not officially sign on as a full member until Novem-

ber 17, 2004.

Additional member churches and para-church organizations are still being added. According to press reports, **when CCT has achieved a certain number of member organizations, it will consider itself strong enough to set to work.** The statement has been repeatedly made that **the purpose of the organization will be the attainment of those doctrinal and political objectives on which all the members can agree.**

**Brethren and sisters, we are nearer to the Final Crisis than we have ever been before!** As you read through our new book, *The End of Time*, you will clearly see that **this event is the first in an interconnected collection of over a hundred, the one which will catapult us into all the rest!**

**Pray and work; work and pray.**

The Republican Party is desperate to hold onto power in the governors’ mansions, state legislatures, Congress, and the White House. *They know they must please the conservative right in order to retain political control and increase it.* **Protestants and Catholics united, as they now are for the first time, have a powerful influence over more than 50% of the U.S. population.** This is power! And it will be used. For what objectives? For those alone on which Protestants and Catholics can fully agree.

**As I write these words,** last week millions of people from all over the world gathered for, what the media said, was “the largest funeral in history.” Five kings, six queens, and over 70 presidents and prime ministers attended the funeral of John Paul II. For the first time in U.S. history, a sitting president attended a pope’s funeral. Upon arriving at St. Peter’s Basilica and being ushered in for a private viewing, our president, his wife, two former U.S. presidents, and their associates knelt and prayed before the dead body for several minutes.

**A few weeks earlier,** solely at the insistence of the religious right, both houses of Congress returned to Washington, D.C.; and nearly all Republicans and many Democrats enacted legislation concerning a woman in Florida.

**Two months earlier,** in January 2005, a source very close to the action told me that representatives of the religious right met privately in Washington, D.C., with key leaders—and issued the ultimatum that they meant business—and Congress and the White House had better fulfill their objectives, or they would withdraw support in coming elections.

**Men are preparing for the end. Are we?** —vf

Here is an organized collection of statements on this subject. The first is one of the earliest. **Read these statements and be filled anew with the utter urgency of this matter!** Prepare your family for what is ahead. Warn others. Make copies of these papers and share them with fellow believers. Warn the world of what is coming on the earth!

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**“Those who had accepted the light concerning the mediation of Christ and the perpetuity of the law of God, found that these were the truths brought to view in the third message.** The angel declares, ‘Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’ Rev. 14:12. This statement is preceded by a solemn and fearful warning: ‘If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation.’ Rev. 14:9, 10. An interpretation of the symbols employed was necessary to an understanding of this message. **What was represented by the beast, the image, and the mark?** Again those who were seeking for the truth returned to the study of the prophecies.

**“By this first beast is represented the Roman Church,** an ecclesiastical body clothed with civil power, having authority to punish all dissenters. **The image to the beast represents another religious body clothed with similar powers.** The formation of this image is the work of that beast whose peaceful rise and mild professions render it so striking a symbol of the United States. Here is to be found an image of the Papacy. **When the churches of our land, uniting upon such points of faith as are held by them in common, shall influence the State to enforce their decrees and sustain their institutions, then will Protestant America have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy.** Then the true church will be assailed by persecution, as were God’s ancient people.”—*Story of Redemption, 381-382.*

“The conflict is between the requirements of God and the requirements of the beast. **The first day, a papal institution which directly contradicts the fourth commandment, is yet to be made a test by the two-horned beast.** And then the fearful warning from God declares the penalty of bowing to the beast and his image. They shall drink the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation.

**“No name which we can take will be appropriate but that which accords with our profession and expresses our faith and marks us a peculiar people. The name Seventh-day Adventist is a standing rebuke to the Protestant world.** Here is the line of distinction between the worshipers of God and those who worship the beast and receive his mark. The great

conflict is between the commandments of God and the requirements of the beast. It is because the saints are keeping all ten of the commandments that the dragon makes war upon them. If they will lower the standard and yield the peculiarities of their faith, the dragon will be at peace; but they excite his ire because they have dared to raise the standard and unfurl their banner in opposition to the Protestant world, who are worshiping the institution of papacy. The name Seventh-day Adventist carries the true features of our faith in front, and will convict the inquiring mind.”—*1 Testimonies, 223-224.*

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.’ **In the near future we shall see these words fulfilled as the Protestant churches unite with the world and with the papal power against commandment keepers.** The same spirit which actuated papists in ages past will lead Protestants to pursue a similar course toward those who will maintain their loyalty to God.

“Church and state are now making preparations for the future conflict. **Protestants are working in disguise to bring Sunday to the front, as did the Romanists.**”—*5 Testimonies, 449.*

**“To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law.** Those who fear God cannot accept an institution that violates a precept of the Decalogue. **On this battlefield comes the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error.** And we are not left in doubt as to the issue. Now, as in the days of Mordecai, the Lord will vindicate His truth and His people.

“By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. **When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this three-fold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution** as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, **then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.**

“As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, **so may this apostasy be a sign to us** that the limit of God’s forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation’s iniquity is full, and that the angel of mercy is about to take her flight, never to return. **The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress which prophets** have described as the time of Jacob’s trouble.”—*5 Testi-*

monies, 451.

“We have been looking many years for a Sunday law to be enacted in our land . . . **The time is fast approaching when those who choose to obey God rather than man will be made to feel the hand of oppression. Shall we then dishonor God by keeping silent** while His holy commandments are trodden underfoot?

“**While the Protestant world is by her attitude making concessions to Rome, let us arouse to comprehend the situation** and view the contest before us in its true bearings. Let the watchmen now lift up their voice and give the message which is present truth for this time.”—5 *Testimonies*, 716.

“**The Protestant churches have accepted the spurious sabbath, the child of the papacy, and have exalted it above God’s holy, sanctified day.** It is our work to make plain to our children that the first day of the week is not the true Sabbath, and that its observance, after light has come to us as to what is the true Sabbath, is a plain contradiction of the law of God. Do our children receive from the teachers in the public schools ideas that are in harmony with the Word of God? **Is sin presented as an offense against God? Is obedience to all the commandments of God taught as the beginning of all wisdom?** We send our children to the Sabbath school that they may be instructed in regard to the truth, and then as they go to the day school, lessons containing falsehood are given them to learn. These things confuse the mind, and should not be; for if the young receive ideas that pervert the truth, how will the influence of this education be counteracted?”—6 *Testimonies*, 193-194.

“**The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin, and the church and the world will be in corrupt harmony.**

“**Here the great crisis is coming upon the world.** The Scriptures teach that **popery is to regain its lost supremacy, and that the fires of persecution will be rekindled through the time-serving concessions of the so-called Protestant world.** In this time of peril we can stand only as we have the truth and the power of God. Men can know the truth only by being themselves partakers of the divine nature. We have need now for more than human wisdom in reading and searching the Scriptures; and if we come to God’s Word with humble hearts, He will raise up a standard for us against the lawless element.

“It is difficult to hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end; and **the difficulty increases when there are hidden influences constantly at work to bring in another spirit, a counterworking element,** on Satan’s side of the question. In the absence of persecution, there have drifted into our ranks some who appear sound, and their Christianity unquestion-

able, but who, if persecution should arise, would go out from us. In the crisis, they would see force in specious reasoning that has had an influence on their minds.”—2 *Selected Messages*, 367-368.

“**We are not to locate ourselves where we will be forced into close relations with those who do not honor God . . . A crisis is soon to come in regard to the observance of Sunday . . .**

“When the power invested in kings is allied to goodness, it is because the one in responsibility is under the divine dictation. When power is allied with wickedness, it is allied to satanic agencies, and it will work to destroy those who are the Lord’s property. **The Protestant world have set up an idol sabbath in the place where God’s Sabbath should be, and they are treading in the footsteps of the Papacy.** For this reason I see **the necessity of the people of God moving out of the cities** into retired country [places], where they may cultivate the land and raise their own produce. Thus they may bring their children up with simple, healthful habits. I see the necessity of making haste to get all things ready for the crisis.”—2 *Selected Messages*, 359 (*Letter 90*, 1897).

“Let the watchmen on the walls of Zion not join with those who are making of none effect the truth as it is in Christ. **Let them not join the confederacy of infidelity, popery, and Protestantism in exalting tradition** above Scripture, reason above revelation, and human talent above the divine influence and the vital power of godliness.”—4 *Bible Commentary*, 1141-1142 (*Review*, March 24, 1896).

“[2 Thess. 2:7, 8; Eze. 28:2, 6-10 quoted.] The time is fast approaching when this scripture will be fulfilled. **The world and the professedly Protestant churches are in this our day taking sides with the man of sin . . . The great issue that is coming will be on the seventh-day Sabbath.**”—4 *Bible Commentary*, 1162-1163 (*Review*, April 19, 1898).

“The Lord has clearly defined the road to the city of God; but **the great apostate has changed the signpost, setting up a false one—a spurious sabbath.** He says: ‘I will work at cross-purposes with God. **I will empower my delegate, the man of sin, to take down God’s memorial,** the seventh-day Sabbath. Thus will I show the world that the day sanctified and blessed by God has been changed. **That day shall not live in the minds of the people. I will obliterate the memory of it.** I will place in its stead a day bearing not the credentials of heaven, a day that cannot be a sign between God and His people. I will lead the people, who accept this day, to place upon it the sanctity that God placed upon the seventh day. Through my vicegerent I will exalt myself. The first day shall be extolled, and the Protestant world shall receive this spurious sabbath as genuine. **Through the non-observance of the**

**Sabbath God instituted, I will bring His law into contempt.** The words, 'A sign between me and you throughout your generations,' I will make to serve on the side of my sabbath. **Thus the world will become mine.** I will be ruler of the earth, prince of the world. I will so control the minds under my power that God's Sabbath shall be an object of contempt. A sign? **I will make the observance of the seventh day a sign of disloyalty to the authorities of earth.** Human laws shall be made so stringent that men and women will not dare to observe the seventh-day Sabbath. **For fear of wanting food and clothing, they will join with the world** in transgressing God's law; and the earth will be wholly under my dominion.'

**"The man of sin has instituted a false sabbath, and the professed Christian world has adopted this child of the papacy, refusing to obey God.** Thus Satan leads men and women in a direction opposite to the city of refuge; and by the multitudes who follow him, it is demonstrated that Adam and Eve are not the only ones who have accepted the words of the wily foe.

**"The enemy of all good has turned the signpost round, so that it points to the path of disobedience as the path of happiness.** He has insulted Jehovah by refusing to obey a 'Thus saith the Lord.' He has thought to change times and laws."*—4 Bible Commentary, 1171-1172 (Review, April 17, 1900).*

"The Christian world has sanctioned his efforts by adopting this child of the Papacy—the Sunday institution. **They have nourished it, and will continue to nourish it, until Protestantism shall give the hand of fellowship to the Roman power.**

**"Then there will be a law against the Sabbath** of God's creation, and then it is that God will do His 'strange work' in the earth."*—7 Bible Commentary, 910.*

"[Rev. 13:11-13 quoted.] **Religious powers, allied to heaven [only] by profession and claiming to have the characteristics of a lamb, will show by their acts that they have the heart of a dragon,** and that they are instigated and controlled by Satan. **The time is coming when God's people will feel the hand of persecution because they keep holy the seventh day.** Satan has caused the change of the Sabbath in the hope of carrying out his purpose for the defeat of God's plans. **He seeks to make the commands of God of less force in the world than human laws.**

**"The man of sin, who thought to change times and laws, and who has always oppressed the people of God, will cause laws to be made enforcing the observance of the first day of the week.** But God's

people are to stand firm for Him. And the Lord will work in their behalf, showing plainly that He is the God of gods."*—7 Bible Commentary, 975 (Manuscript 135, 1902).*

"The Word of God plainly declares that **His law is to be scorned, trampled upon, by the world;** there will be an extraordinary prevalence of iniquity. **The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin, and the church and the world will be in corrupt harmony.**

"Here the great crisis is coming upon the world. The Scriptures teach that **popery is to regain its lost supremacy, and that the fires of persecution will be rekindled through the timeserving concessions of the so-called Protestant world.**"*—7 Bible Commentary, 975 (General Conference Bulletin, April 13, 1891).*

**"Already preparations are advancing, and movements are in progress,** which will result in making an image to the beast. Events will be brought about in the earth's history that will fulfill the predictions of prophecy for these last days."*—7 Bible Commentary, 976 (Review, April 23, 1889).*

**"When the Protestant churches shall unite with the secular power to sustain a false religion,** for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution; **when the state shall use its power to enforce the decrees and sustain the institutions of the church—then will Protestant America have formed an image to the papacy,** and there will be a national apostasy which will end only in national ruin."*—7 Bible Commentary, 976 (Signs, March 22, 1910).*

"God made the world in six days and rested on the seventh, sanctifying this day, and setting it apart from all others as holy to Himself, to be observed by His people throughout their generations.

"But the man of sin, exalting himself above God, sitting in the temple of God, and showing himself to be God, thought to change times and laws. **This power, thinking to prove that it was not only equal to God, but above God, changed the rest day,** placing the first day of the week where the seventh should be. **And the Protestant world has taken this child of the papacy to be regarded as sacred. In the Word of God this is called her fornication.**

"God has a controversy with the churches of today. They are fulfilling the prophecy of John. 'All nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.' **They have divorced themselves from God by refusing to receive His sign.** They have not the

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spirit of God's true commandment-keeping people. And **the people of the world, in giving their sanction to a false sabbath, and in trampling under their feet the Sabbath of the Lord, have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.**"—*7 Bible Commentary*, 979 (Letter 98, 1900).

"[Rev. 17:1-4 quoted.] Thus is represented the papal power, which with all deceivableness of unrighteousness, by outside attraction and gorgeous display, deceives all nations; **promising them, as did Satan our first parents, all good to those who receive its mark, and all harm to those who oppose its fallacies.** The power which has the deepest inward corruption will make the greatest display, and **will clothe itself with the most elaborate signs of power.** The Bible plainly declares that this covers a corrupt and deceiving wickedness. 'Upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth.'

**"What is it that gives its kingdom to this power? Protestantism,** a power which, while professing to have the temper and spirit of a lamb and to be allied to Heaven, speaks with the voice of a dragon. It is moved by a power from beneath."—*7 Bible Commentary*, 983 (Letter 232, 1899).

"[Rev. 17:13, 14 quoted.] 'These have one mind.' **There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces.** 'And shall give their power and strength unto the beast.' Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism.

**"In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be united, in opposition to God's people, all the corrupt powers** that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah. In this warfare the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will be the great point at issue; for in the Sabbath commandment the great Lawgiver identifies Himself as the Creator of the heavens and the earth."—*7 Bible Commentary*, 983 (Manuscript 24, 1891).

"Babylon is said to be 'the mother of harlots.' **By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions,** and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the

world. The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. **Since this message follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last days;** therefore it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries."—*Great Controversy*, 382-383.

**"Many of the Protestant churches are following Rome's example of iniquitous connection with 'the kings of the earth'—the state churches,** by their relation to secular governments; and other denominations, by seeking the favor of the world. And **the term 'Babylon'—confusion—may be appropriately applied to these bodies,** all professing to derive their doctrines from the Bible, yet divided into almost innumerable sects, with widely conflicting creeds and theories."—*Great Controversy*, 383.

"The Constitution provides that 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' and that 'no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office of public trust under the United States.' **Only in flagrant violation of these safeguards to the nation's liberty, can any religious observance be enforced** by civil authority. But the inconsistency of such action is no greater than is represented in the symbol. It is the beast with lamblike horns—in profession pure, gentle, and harmless—that speaks as a dragon.

"'Saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast.' Here is clearly presented a form of government in which the legislative power rests with the people, a most striking evidence that the United States is the nation denoted in the prophecy.

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

"When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and **in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of 'heresy.'** In order for the United

States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.

**“Whenever the church has obtained secular power, she has employed it to punish dissent from her doctrines.** Protestant churches that have followed in the steps of Rome by forming alliance with worldly powers have manifested a similar desire to restrict liberty of conscience.”—*Great Controversy*, 442-443.

“The wide diversity of belief in the Protestant churches is regarded by many as decisive proof that no effort to secure a forced uniformity can ever be made. But **there has been for years, in churches of the Protestant faith, a strong and growing sentiment in favor of a union based upon common points of doctrine.** To secure such a union, the discussion of subjects upon which all were not agreed—however important they might be from a Bible standpoint—must necessarily be waived.”—*Great Controversy*, 444.

**“The Roman Church has not relinquished her claim to supremacy; and when the world and the Protestant churches accept a sabbath of her creating, while they reject the Bible Sabbath, they virtually admit this assumption.** They may claim the authority of tradition and of the Fathers for the change; but in so doing they ignore the very principle which separates them from Rome—that ‘the Bible, and the Bible only, is the religion of Protestants.’ **The papist can see that they are deceiving themselves, willingly closing their eyes to the facts in the case. As the movement for Sunday enforcement gains favor, he rejoices,** feeling assured that it will eventually bring the whole Protestant world under the banner of Rome.

“Romanists declare that **‘the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church.’**—*Mgr. Segur, Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today*, page 213. **The enforcement of Sundaykeeping on the part of Protestant churches is an enforcement of the worship of the papacy—of the beast.** Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false instead of the true Sabbath are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. But **in the very act of enforcing a religious duty by secular power, the churches would themselves form an image to the beast;** hence the enforcement of Sundaykeeping in the United States would be an enforcement of the worship of the beast and his image.”—*Great Controversy*, 448-449.

**“These persons degrade the intellectual powers to serve their carnal desires.** Too wise in their own conceit to search the Scriptures with contrition

of soul and earnest prayer for divine guidance, they have no shield from delusion. Satan is ready to supply the heart’s desire, and he palms off his deceptions in the place of truth. **It was thus that the papacy gained its power over the minds of men;** and by rejection of the truth because it involves a cross, Protestants are following the same path. All who neglect the Word of God to study convenience and policy, that they may not be at variance with the world, will be left to receive damnable heresy for religious truth. **Every conceivable form of error will be accepted by those who willfully reject the truth.**”—*Great Controversy*, 523.

**“Romanism is now regarded by Protestants with far greater favor than in former years.** In those countries where Catholicism is not in the ascendancy, and the papists are taking a conciliatory course in order to gain influence, **there is an increasing indifference concerning the doctrines that separate the reformed churches from the papal hierarchy;** the opinion is gaining ground that, after all, we do not differ so widely upon vital points as has been supposed, and that a little concession on our part will bring us into a better understanding with Rome. The time was when Protestants placed a high value upon the liberty of conscience which had been so dearly purchased. They taught their children to abhor popery and held that to seek harmony with Rome would be disloyalty to God. But how widely different are the sentiments now expressed!

**“The defenders of the papacy declare that the church has been maligned, and the Protestant world are inclined to accept the statement.** Many urge that it is unjust to judge the church of today by the abominations and absurdities that marked her reign during the centuries of ignorance and darkness. They excuse her horrible cruelty as the result of the barbarism of the times and plead that the influence of modern civilization has changed her sentiments.

**“Have these persons forgotten the claim of infallibility** put forth for eight hundred years by this haughty power? So far from being relinquished, this claim was affirmed in the nineteenth century with greater positiveness than ever before.”—*Great Controversy*, 563-564.

**“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.”—*Great Controversy*, 566.

“It is not without reason that the claim has been put forth in Protestant countries that Catholicism dif-

fers less widely from Protestantism than in former times. **There has been a change; but the change is not in the papacy.** Catholicism indeed resembles much of the Protestantism that now exists, because Protestantism has so greatly degenerated since the days of the Reformers.

**“As the Protestant churches have been seeking the favor of the world, false charity has blinded their eyes.** They do not see but that it is right to believe good of all evil, and as the inevitable result they will finally believe evil of all good. Instead of standing in defense of the faith once delivered to the saints, **they are now, as it were, apologizing to Rome for their uncharitable opinion of her,** begging pardon for their bigotry.”—*Great Controversy*, 571-572.

**“In the movements now in progress in the United States to secure for the institutions and usages of the church the support of the state, Protestants are following in the steps of papists.** Nay, more, they are opening the door for the papacy to regain in Protestant America the supremacy which she has lost in the Old World. And that which gives greater significance to this movement is the fact that **the principal object contemplated is the enforcement of Sunday observance**—a custom which originated with Rome, and **which she claims as the sign of her authority.** It is the spirit of the papacy—the spirit of conformity to worldly customs, the veneration for human traditions above the commandments of God—that is permeating the Protestant churches and **leading them on to do the same work of Sunday exaltation which the papacy has done before them.**

“If the reader would understand the agencies to be employed in the soon-coming contest, he has but to trace the record of the means which Rome employed for the same object in ages past. **If he would know how papists and Protestants united will deal with those who reject their dogmas, let him see the spirit which Rome manifested toward the Sabbath and its defenders.**

“Royal edicts, general councils, and **church ordinances sustained by secular power** were the steps by which the pagan festival attained its position of honor in the Christian world.”—*Great Controversy*, 573-574.

**“These records of the past clearly reveal the enmity of Rome toward the true Sabbath and its defenders,** and the means which she employs to honor the institution of her creating. **The Word of God teaches that these scenes are to be repeated as Roman Catholics and Protestants shall unite for the exaltation of the Sunday.**”—*Great Controversy*, 578.

“It has been shown that the United States is the power represented by the beast with lamblike horns, and that **this prophecy will be fulfilled when the**

**United States shall enforce Sunday observance, which Rome claims as the special acknowledgment of her supremacy.** But in this homage to the papacy **the United States will not be alone.** The influence of Rome in the countries that once acknowledged her dominion is still far from being destroyed. And prophecy foretells a restoration of her power.”—*Great Controversy*, 579.

“Protestants little know what they are doing when they propose to accept the aid of Rome in the work of Sunday exaltation. **While they are bent upon the accomplishment of their purpose, Rome is aiming to re-establish her power,** to recover her lost supremacy. **Let the principle once be established in the United States that the church may employ or control the power of the state; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws;** in short, that the authority of church and state is to dominate the conscience, **and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured.**

“God’s Word has given warning of the impending danger; **let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are,** only when it is too late to escape the snare.”—*Great Controversy*, 581.

“Through the two great errors, **the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness,** Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While **the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost** in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; **they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union,** this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.”—*Great Controversy*, 588.

**“As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day,** it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. **Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought,** the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, **their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power.**

“The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. **Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body** and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism. **Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived** by this wonder-work-

ing power; **and Protestants**, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. **Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike** accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union **a grand movement for the conversion of the world** and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.”—*Great Controversy*, 588-589.

“As the Protestant churches reject the clear, Scriptural arguments in defense of God’s law, **they will long to silence those whose faith they cannot overthrow by the Bible**. Though they blind their own eyes to the fact, **they are now adopting a course which will lead to the persecution of those who conscientiously refuse** to do what the rest of the Christian world are doing, and acknowledge the claims of the papal sabbath.

“**The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor the Sunday**. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments. Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, **rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance**. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. In the soon-coming conflict we shall see exemplified the prophet’s words: ‘The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.’ Revelation 12:17.”—*Great Controversy*, 592.

“Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. **The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God**, will decree that ‘all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond’ (Revelation 13:16), **shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath**. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand, the law of God enjoining the Creator’s rest day demands obedience and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts.

“**With the issue thus clearly brought before him**, whoever shall trample upon God’s law to obey a human enactment **receives the mark of the beast**; he accepts the sign of allegiance to the power which he chooses to obey instead of God. The warning from heaven is: ‘If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the

cup of His indignation.’ Revelation 14:9, 10.

“**But not one is made to suffer the wrath of God until the truth has been brought home to his mind and conscience, and has been rejected**. There are many who have never had an opportunity to hear the special truths for this time. The obligation of the fourth commandment has never been set before them in its true light. He who reads every heart and tries every motive will leave none who desire a knowledge of the truth, to be deceived as to the issues of the controversy. The decree is not to be urged upon the people blindly. **Everyone is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently**.

“**The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted**. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God’s law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. **While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God**.”—*Great Controversy*, 604-605.

“**As the controversy extends into new fields and the minds of the people are called to God’s down-trodden 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 endeavor to suppress the discussion of these vital questions. The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and, in this work, papists and Protestants unite**. As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, **the law will be invoked against commandment keepers**. They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith. But their steadfast answer is: ‘Show us from the Word of God our error’—the same plea that was made by Luther under similar circumstances. **Those who are arraigned before the courts make a strong vindication of the truth**, and some who hear them are led to take their stand to keep all the commandments of God. **Thus light will be brought before thousands** who otherwise would know nothing of these truths.”—*Great Controversy*, 607.