



## THE FINAL COUNTDOWN: THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST

### WEEK #18 OF A LIVE BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Week #18 -

**Revelation 13:13-15:** “And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by [the means of] those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

**Daniel 7:17, 23:** “These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth....Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.”

**Genesis 1:26:** “And God said, Let us make man in our **image**, after our **likeness**: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

**Exodus 20:4:** “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven **image**, or any **likeness** of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.” Exodus 20:4

**Revelation 13:14:** “And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth **by the means of those miracles** which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that **they should make an image to the beast**, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.”

**Uriah Smith, “Thoughts on Daniel and The Revelation,” page 546 par. 3:** “To understand what would be **an image of the papacy, we must first gain some definite idea of what constitutes the papacy itself.** The full development of the beast, or the establishment of papal supremacy, dates from the famous letter of

Justinian, which was made effective in A. D. 538, constituting the pope the head of the church and the corrector of heretics. **The papacy was a church clothed with civil power**, — an ecclesiastical body having authority to punish all dissenters with confiscation of goods, imprisonment, torture, and death. What would be an image of the papacy?"

**Uriah Smith, "Thoughts on Daniel and The Revelation," page 546 par. 3:** "Another ecclesiastical establishment clothed with similar power. How could such an image be formed in the United States? **Let the Protestant churches be clothed with power to define and punish heresy**, to enforce their dogmas under the pains and penalties of the civil law, **and should we not have an exact representation of the papacy during the days of its supremacy?**"

**Uriah Smith, "The Marvel of Nations," [1897], page 229, par. 3:** "The opposition to the religious amendment manifested in many parts of the country, **especially by the liberal or infidel element**, is thought by many to be an insuperable barrier in the way of its success. But if we mistake not, this is the very stimulus which will excite its friends to such exertions that it will ultimately be secured; for the opposition assumes such an aggressive attitude that no neutral ground is left; an irrepressible conflict is precipitated; it must be victory or defeat of the most decisive kind with either party; **the government must become nominally wholly Christian or in reality wholly secular.**"

**The Great Controversy, page 445 par. 1:** "When the **leading churches of the United States**, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are **held by them in common**, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result."

**The Great Controversy, page 445 par. 2:** "...The "image to the beast" represents that form of apostate **Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power** for the **enforcement** of their dogmas...."

**Uriah Smith, "Thoughts on Daniel and The Revelation," page 571 par. 4:** "Another organization, called The American Sabbath Union, has come into existence to forward the movement in behalf of Sunday observance; and other reform organizations have swung into the same line. Notable among these is the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, which has great strength in the United States, and many auxiliaries in other lands, as well."

**Uriah Smith, "Thoughts on Daniel and The Revelation," page 571 par. 4:** "This organization, having at first in view the one specific object of temperance reform, has now added to its declared intention, **the enthroning of Christ in American politics**, in order to secure, in this land, **a theocracy, and the better observance of the Sunday**. In this theocracy, of course, if established, theological leaders would be the

interpreters of Christ's will, and their decisions be enforced upon the people by the civil law. And what would this be but the papacy over again, well called in the prophecy "an image" of that beast?"

**Uriah Smith, "Thoughts on Daniel and The Revelation," page 571 par. 5-6:** "...What these National Reformers [Christian Nationalists] desire and design to secure in their campaign, is expressed by one of the secretaries of said association, F. M. Foster, in the Christian Statesman, October, 1892. He says:

"But one danger lies in this: The church does not speak as a church. The American Sabbath Union has done a good work. The denominations have spoken. But the Christian organized church has not officially gone to Washington and spoken."

**Uriah Smith, "Thoughts on Daniel and The Revelation," page 571 par. 5-6:** "The work there has been largely turned over to associations. But the voice of God, authoritative, official, is through his church. Should there not be joint action of the denominations in this? They should, it would appear, appoint a joint committee to speak for God; and properly and courageously done, there can follow but the very best results.... Much is lost by the church failing officially to speak at the right time, and in the right place. No association is clothed with this authority. They are individual and social; but the church is divine. **She can, and ought to, utter the voice of God in the halls of Congress, as an organized church.**"

**Uriah Smith, "Thoughts on Daniel and The Revelation," page 605 par. 1:** "...Rome, having the power, **destroyed vast multitudes of those whom she adjudged heretics.** The Protestant church **has shown the same spirit.** Witness the burning of Michael Servetus by the Protestants of Geneva with John Calvin at their head. Witness the long-continued oppression of dissenters by the Church of England. Witness the hanging of Quakers and whipping of Baptists even by the Puritan fathers of New England, themselves fugitives from like oppression by the Church of England. But these, some may say, are things of the past. Very true; yet **they show that when persons governed by strong religious prejudice have the power to coerce dissenters, they cannot forbear to use it** — a state of things which we look for in this country under a **further fulfillment of the closing prophecy of chapter 13.**"

**The Great Controversy, page 443 par. 3:** "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.** An example of this is given in the long-continued persecution of dissenters by the Church of England. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, thousands of nonconformist ministers were forced to flee from their churches, and many, both of pastors and people, were subjected to fine, imprisonment, torture, and martyrdom."

**Uriah Smith, "Thoughts on Daniel and The Revelation," page 546 par. 2:** "**Closely associated with this**

**working of miracles is the erection of an image to the beast.** The prophet thus connects the two in verse 14: "And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast which had the wound by a sword, and did live." **The deception accomplished by the working of the miracles prepares the way for compliance with this demand for the formation of an image to the beast.**"

**Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, page 451 par. 1:** "...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 threefold 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.**"

**The Great Controversy, page 464 par. 1:** "...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 Great Controversy, page 464 par. 1:** "The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, **he will endeavor 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 marvelously 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, page 553 par. 2:** "... It was by **satanic aid** that Pharaoh's magicians were enabled to **counterfeit the work of God.** Paul testifies that before the second advent of Christ **there will be similar manifestations of satanic power.** The coming of the Lord is to be preceded by "the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness." 2 Thessalonians 2:9,10. And the apostle John, **describing the miracle-working power that will be manifested in the last days, declares:** "He doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do." Revelation 13:13, 14. **No mere impostures are here foretold. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan's agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do.**"

**Manuscript Releases, Volume 19, page 372 par. 2:** "...Those who look for **miracles as a sign of divine guidance** are in grave **danger of deception**. It is stated in the Word that the **enemy will work through his agents who have departed from the faith**, and they will seemingly work miracles, even to **the bringing down of fire out of heaven in the sight of men** [Revelation 13:13, 14]. By means of "lying wonders" Satan would deceive, if possible, the very elect [Matthew 24:24]."

**Revelation 13:16-17:** "And he **causeth all**, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that **no man might buy or sell**, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

**Country Living, page 9 par. 5:** "...Again and again **the Lord has instructed** that our people are to take their families away from the cities, **into the country**, where they can raise their own provisions; **for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one**. We should now begin to heed the instruction given us over and over again: **Get out of the cities into rural districts**, where the houses are not crowded closely together, and where you will be **free from the interference of enemies**." Letter 5, 1904

### **3 Pillars of a Country Property:**

Land - How much

Water - How to get it

Wood - How Much

**3LtMs, Letter 4a, 1881, par. 12:** "Father has excellent health. He has worked hard on the place here; put in **more than one acre of strawberries**, some **raspberries**, **more than an acre of potatoes**, **several acres of corn**, **fifty hard maples**, many **peach** trees, **pear** trees, and **two long rows of pie plant**. I have been gathering up shrubs and flowers until **we have quite a garden**."

1 Acre of Strawberries

1 Acre of Potatoes

3 Acres of corn

1/2 Acre of Maple Trees

1/2 Acre other

**= 6+ Acres Total**

### **Areas of a Self-sufficient Homestead:**

•Garden/Greenhouse

•Livestock

- Logging
- Food Preservation
- Household Essentials
- Water System/Storage
- Energy and Power Management
- Natural Remedies
- Construction
- Education
- Emergency

