



Catholicism

7 Trumpets-part 4

REVELATION 8:10— AND THE THIRD ANGEL SOUNDED, AND THERE FELL A GREAT STAR FROM HEAVEN, BURNING AS IT WERE A LAMP, AND IT FELL UPON THE THIRD PART OF THE RIVERS, AND UPON THE FOUNTAINS OF WATERS.

3RD TRUMPET—CHRISTIANITY COMPROMISED/PAPAL ROME

Great star from heaven = Fallen angel, satan

“And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning **fall from heaven**” (Luke 10:18).

“And his tail drew the third part of **the stars of heaven**, and did cast them to the earth” (Revelation 12:4).

As it were = As if to be

“And no marvel; for satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works” (2 Corinthians 11:14, 15).

Lamp = God’s Word

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Lamp the burneth = Salvation

“For Zion’s sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth” (Isaiah 62:1).

Fell upon = take hold of

Third part = deceived/wicked —Revelation 12:3 [see above]

Rivers = Kings/leaders

“The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.” (Proverbs 21:1).

“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication” (Revelation 17:1,2).



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Fountains of water = Righteous falling before the wicked

“A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring” (Proverbs 25:26).

•Symbols Summarized:

- Great = derogatory to God
- Star = satan
- As it were = impostor, counterfeit
- Lamp = Word of God
- Burning lamp = salvation
- Third part = deceived
- Rivers = Kings/ leaders
- Fountains of waters = righteous falling away; apostasy

Summary—Satan as a fallen angel (great star fell from heaven) uses the Bible/religious guise/ false salvation (burning as it were a lamp) to take hold of (fall upon) and deceive (third part) leaders (rivers) and even the righteous (fountains of waters).

Present Truth—History repeated—today satan works in a religious guise to misinterpret the Bible perverting the message of salvation and taking hold of leaders and even righteous people with his deceptions.

REVELATION 8:11—AND THE NAME OF THE STAR IS CALLED WORMWOOD: AND THE THIRD PART OF THE WATERS BECAME WORMWOOD; AND MANY MEN DIED OF THE WATERS, BECAUSE THEY WERE MADE BITTER.

Wormwood = apostasy, affliction, unrighteousness

“Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose **heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods** of these nations; lest there should be among you **a root that beareth gall and wormwood**” (Deuteronomy 29:18).

“Remembering mine **affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall**” (Lamentations 3:19).

“Ye who turn judgment to **wormwood**, and **leave off righteousness** in the earth” (Amos 5:7).

Water = peoples, nations, multitudes and tongues

“And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” (Revelation 17:15).

•Symbols Summarized—

- Wormwood = apostasy, affliction, unrighteousness in the earth.



- Waters = peoples, nations, multitudes and tongues.
- Men died = persecution.

Summary— Satan is filled with apostasy and bitterness (wormwood). He deceives (third part) of peoples, nations, multitudes and tongues (waters) making them become apostates, afflicted, bitter, and unrighteousness (wormwood) bringing death to peoples, nations, multitudes and tongues (waters) because they are made bitter.

Present Truth—History repeated—Today satan is filled with bitterness against those for whom Christ died. He afflicts and deceives the nations through apostasy and unrighteousness bringing death to the world and making many people bitter.

HISTORICAL NOTES— “Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ (The Great Controversy, p. 49).

This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of ‘the man of sin’ foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan’s power—a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will” (The Great Controversy, p. 50).

Satan once endeavored to form a compromise with Christ... Christ rebuked the presumptuous tempter and forced him to depart. But Satan meets with greater success in presenting the same temptations to man. **To secure worldly gains and honors, the church was led to seek the favor and support of the great men of earth; and having thus rejected Christ, she was induced to yield allegiance to the representative of Satan—the bishop of Rome”** (The Great Controversy, p. 50).

It is one of the leading doctrines of Romanism that the pope is the visible head of the universal church of Christ, invested with supreme authority over bishops and pastors in all parts of the world. More than this, the pope has been given the very titles of Deity. **He has been styled ‘Lord God the Pope’** (see Appendix), and has been declared infallible” (The Great Controversy, p. 51).

In the early part of the fourth century the emperor Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire. (See Appendix.) **The day of the sun was revered by his pagan subjects and was honored by Christians; it was the emperor’s policy to unite the conflicting interests of heathenism and Christianity.** He was urged to do this by the bishops of the church, who, inspired by ambition and thirst for power, perceived that if the same day was observed by both Christians and heathen, it would promote the nominal



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acceptance of Christianity by pagans and thus advance the power and glory of the church. But while many God-fearing Christians were gradually led to regard Sunday as possessing a degree of sacredness, they still held the true Sabbath as the holy of the Lord and observed it in obedience to the fourth commandment” (The Great Controversy, p. 53).

The archdeceiver had not completed his work. He was resolved to gather the Christian world under his banner and to exercise his power through his vicegerent, the proud pontiff who claimed to be the representative of Christ. Through half-converted pagans, ambitious prelates, and world-loving churchmen he accomplished his purpose. Vast councils were held from time to time, in which the dignitaries of the church were convened from all the world. In nearly every council the Sabbath which God had instituted was pressed down a little lower, while the Sunday was correspondingly exalted. **Thus the pagan festival came finally to be honored as a divine institution, while the Bible Sabbath was pronounced a relic of Judaism, and its observers were declared to be accursed**” (The Great Controversy, p. 53).

Satan strives to turn men from their allegiance to God, and from rendering obedience to His law; therefore he directs his efforts especially against that commandment which points to God as the Creator” (The Great Controversy, p. 53).

Burning as it were a lamp—

They were taught not only to look to the pope as their mediator, but to trust to works of their own to atone for sin. Long pilgrimages, acts of penance, the worship of relics, the erection of churches, shrines, and altars, the payment of large sums to the church--these and many similar acts were enjoined to appease the wrath of God or to secure His favor; as if God were like men, to be angered at trifles, or pacified by gifts or acts of penance! (The Great Controversy, p. 55).

Men died because the waters were made bitter—

“In the sixth century the papacy had become firmly established. Its seat of power was fixed in the imperial city, and the bishop of Rome was declared to be the head over the entire church. Paganism had given place to the papacy. The dragon had given to the beast ‘his power, and his seat, and great authority.’ Revelation 13:2. And now began the 1260 years of papal oppression foretold in the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation. Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5-7. (See Appendix.) Christians were forced to choose either to yield their integrity and accept the papal ceremonies and worship, or to wear away their lives in dungeons or suffer death by the rack, the fagot, or the headsman’s ax” (The Great Controversy, p. 54).



Catholicism-2

Smitten = 4141 plessw plesso
(place'-so)

1) to strike, smite

7 Trumpets-part 5

REVELATION 8:12— “AND THE FOURTH ANGEL SOUNDED, AND THE THIRD PART OF THE SUN WAS SMITTEN, AND THE THIRD PART OF THE MOON, AND THE THIRD PART OF THE STARS; SO AS THE THIRD PART OF THEM WAS DARKENED, AND THE DAY SHONE NOT FOR A THIRD PART OF IT, AND THE NIGHT LIKEWISE.”

4TH TRUMPET—RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

Third part = deceived —Revelation 12:3

Sun, moon, stars = God's people

“And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?” (Genesis 37:9, 10).

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.” (Revelation 12:1).

Darkened = dark ages/ middles ages

Day = Great light/Bible, gospel

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:3-6).

“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.” (Malachi 4:2).

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world” (John 1:1, 4, 5, 9).



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Night = Bible prophecy—reflection of Jesus

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.” (2 Peter 1:19).

Symbols Summarized:

- Shone not = was not understood/received
- Third part = deceived
- Sun, moon, stars = God’s people
- Smitten = “to strike”
- Day darkened = gospel of Jesus Christ obscured
- Night darkened = Bible/prophecy obscured

Summary—Deception (third part) and persecution (smitten) come upon God’s people (sun, moon and stars) during the dark ages. Many were deceived (third part) as the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ (day) and the Bible/prophecy (night) were obscured (darkened).

Present Truth—History repeated—today God’s people face increasing persecution. Many are deceived and the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Bible and the spirit of prophecy are obscured from their understanding.

Historical Notes—

Sun, moon, stars smitten—“In the sixth century the papacy had become firmly established. Its seat of power was fixed in the imperial city, and the bishop of Rome was declared to be the head over the entire church. Paganism had given place to the papacy. The dragon had given to the beast ‘his power, and his seat, and great authority.’ Revelation 13:2. And now began the 1260 years of papal oppression foretold in the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation. Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5-7. (See Appendix.) **Christians were forced to choose either to yield their integrity and accept the papal ceremonies and worship, or to wear away their lives in dungeons or suffer death by the rack, the fagot, or the headsman’s ax.** Now were fulfilled the words of Jesus: ‘Ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for My name’s sake.’ Luke 21:16, 17. Persecution opened upon the faithful with greater fury than ever before, and the world became a vast battlefield. For hundreds of years the church of Christ found refuge in seclusion and obscurity. Thus says the prophet: ‘The woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three-score days.’ Revelation 12:6. (GC 54.2)



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Day and night did not shine

In order for Satan to maintain his sway over men, and establish the authority of the papal usurper, he must keep them in ignorance of the Scriptures. The Bible would exalt God and place finite men in their true position; therefore its sacred truths must be concealed and suppressed. This logic was adopted by the Roman Church. **For hundreds of years the circulation of the Bible was prohibited.** The people were forbidden to read it or to have it in their houses, and unprincipled priests and prelates interpreted its teachings to sustain their pretensions. Thus the pope came to be almost universally acknowledged as the vicegerent of God on earth, endowed with authority over church and state. (GC 51.3)

“The accession of the Roman Church to power marked the beginning of the Dark Ages. As her power increased, the darkness deepened. Faith was transferred from Christ, the true foundation, to the pope of Rome. Instead of trusting in the Son of God for forgiveness of sins and for eternal salvation, the people looked to the pope, and to the priests and prelates to whom he delegated authority. They were taught that the pope was their earthly mediator and that none could approach God except through him; and, further, that he stood in the place of God to them and was therefore to be implicitly obeyed. A deviation from his requirements was sufficient cause for the severest punishment to be visited upon the bodies and souls of the offenders. Thus the minds of the people were turned away from God to fallible, erring, and cruel men, nay, more, to the prince of darkness himself, who exercised his power through them. Sin was disguised in a garb of sanctity. **When the Scriptures are suppressed, and man comes to regard himself as supreme, we need look only for fraud, deception, and debasing iniquity.** With the elevation of human laws and traditions was manifest the corruption that ever results from setting aside the law of God. (GC 55.1)

Those were days of peril for the church of Christ. The faithful standard-bearers were few indeed. Though the truth was not left without witnesses, yet at times it seemed that error and superstition would wholly prevail, and true religion would be banished from the earth. **The gospel was lost sight of, but the forms of religion were multiplied, and the people were burdened with rigorous exactions.** (GC 55.2)

REVELATION 8:13—AND I BEHELD, AND HEARD AN ANGEL FLYING THROUGH THE MIDST OF HEAVEN, SAYING WITH A LOUD VOICE, WOE, WOE, WOE, TO THE INHABITERS OF THE EARTH BY REASON OF THE OTHER VOICES OF THE TRUMPET OF THE THREE ANGELS, WHICH ARE YET TO SOUND!



Islam

The phrase, “which had fallen” directs us back to the activity of satan already established in the apostasy and compromise of the Christian church in the dark ages. This first woe is directed against that apostasy.

Bottomless—#12 **abussov** abussos (ab'-us-sos) AV - bottomless pit 5, deep 2, bottomless 2; 9

- 1) bottomless
- 2) unbounded
- 3) **the abyss**
 - 3a) the pit
 - 3b) the immeasurable depth

Deep—#08415

AV - deep 20, depth 15, deep places 1; 36

- 1) deep, depths, **abyss**.

7 Trumpets-part 6

REVELATION 9:1— **AND THE FIFTH ANGEL SOUNDED, AND I SAW A STAR FALL FROM HEAVEN UNTO THE EARTH: AND TO HIM WAS GIVEN THE KEY OF THE BOTTOMLESS PIT.**

5TH TRUMPET—THE LOCUST ARMY

“Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven **which had fallen** to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him (Revelation 9:1, NAS).

Key = control

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, ‘He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens’” (Revelation 3:7).

Bottomless Pit = Earth in a state of darkness, chaos, needing the Spirit of God to move upon mankind.

“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2).

Symbols Summarized:

•**Star fallen from heaven = satan**

•**Key = control**

•**Bottomless pit = Earth in a state of darkness, before the Spirit of God to moved upon it.**

REVELATION 9:2—**AND HE OPENED THE BOTTOMLESS PIT; AND THERE AROSE A SMOKE OUT OF THE PIT, AS THE SMOKE OF A GREAT FURNACE; AND THE SUN AND THE AIR WERE DARKENED BY REASON OF THE SMOKE OF THE PIT.**

Smoke = laziness and idol worship

“As vinegar to the teeth and **smoke to the eyes, So is the lazy man** to those who send him” (Proverbs 10:26).

“Now they sin more and more, And have made for themselves molded images, Idols of their silver, according to their skill; All of it is the work of craftsmen. They say of them, “Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves! Therefore they shall be... like smoke from a chimney” (Hosea 13:2, 3).

Smoke of a great furnace = like Sodom and Gomorrah



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Darkened—#4654 skotizw skotizo
(skot-id-zo)

- 1) to cover with darkness, to darken
- 2b1) of the eyes,
- 2b2) of the understanding,
- 2b3) of the mind

“Then he looked toward **Sodom and Gomorrah**, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, **the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace**” (Genesis 19:28).

Sun = Gospel/Righteousness of Jesus Christ “But unto you that fear my name shall the **Sun of righteousness** arise with healing in His wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall” (Malachi 4:2).

Air = The work of the Holy Spirit “And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a **rushing mighty wind**, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And they were all filled with **the Holy Spirit...**” (Acts 2:2, 4).

“The **wind blows** where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of **the Spirit**” (John 3:8).

Darkened = darken understanding of heavenly mediation “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Romans 8:26).

Symbols Summarized:

- Smoke = laziness and idol worship**
- Sun = Gospel/Righteousness of Jesus Christ**
- Air = The work of the Holy Spirit**
- Darkened = darken understanding of heavenly mediation**

REVELATION 9:3—**AND THERE CAME OUT OF THE SMOKE LOCUSTS UPON THE EARTH: AND UNTO THEM WAS GIVEN POWER, AS THE SCORPIONS OF THE EARTH HAVE POWER.**

Locusts = God’s judgments (justice) on apostasy “What the chewing **locust** left, the swarming **locust** has eaten; What the swarming **locust** left, the crawling **locust** has eaten; And what the crawling **locust** left, the consuming **locust** has eaten. For a nation has come up against My land, Strong, and without number; His teeth are the teeth of a lion, And he has the fangs of a fierce lion. Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; **It shall come as destruction from the Almighty**” (Joel 1:4, 6, 15).

“Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like war horses, so they run. The LORD utters His voice before **His army**; Surely His camp is



The Seal of God in Their

Foreheads— ...the seal of God is the Sabbath of the fourth commandment; and history is not silent upon the fact that there have been observers of the true Sabbath all through the present dispensation” (1897 UrS, DAR 501)

Not Hurt—“After the death of Mohammed, he was succeeded in the command by Abubekr, A.D. 632, who, as soon as he had fairly established his authority and government, dispatched a circular letter to the Arabian tribes, from which the following is an extract: ‘When you fight the battles of the Lord, acquit yourselves like men, without turning your backs; but let not your victory be stained with the blood of women and children. Destroy no palm-trees, nor burn any fields of corn. Cut down no fruit-trees, nor do any mischief to cattle, only such as you kill to eat. When you make any covenant or article, stand to it, and be as good as your word. **And as you go, you will find some religious persons who live retired in monasteries, and propose to themselves to serve God that way; let them alone, and neither kill them nor destroy their monasteries.** And you will find another sort of people that belong to the synagogue of Satan, who have shaven crowns; be sure you cleave their skulls, and give them no quarter till they either turn Mohammedans or pay tribute.’” (1897 UrS, DAR 500, 501)

Torment—“Their constant incursions into the Roman territory, and frequent assaults on Constantinople itself, were an unceasing torment throughout the empire; and yet they were not able effectually to subdue it, notwithstanding the long period, afterward more directly alluded to, during which they continued, by unremitting attacks, grievously to afflict an idolatrous church, of which the pope was the head. Their charge was to torment, and then to hurt, but not to kill, or utterly destroy. The marvel was that they did not.” (1897 UrS, DAR 504).

very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it? (Joel 2:4 11).

“Woe to you who plunder, though you have not been plundered; And you who deal treacherously, though they have not dealt treacherously with you! When you cease plundering, You will be plundered; When you make an end of dealing treacherously, They will deal treacherously with you. And Your plunder shall be gathered Like the gathering of the caterpillar; **As the running to and fro of locusts,** He shall run upon them. The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high; **He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness**” (Isaiah 33:1, 4, 5).

Locusts = God’s judgments (justice) on apostasy

REVELATION 9:4—**AND IT WAS COMMANDED THEM THAT THEY SHOULD NOT HURT THE GRASS OF THE EARTH, NEITHER ANY GREEN THING, NEITHER ANY TREE; BUT ONLY THOSE MEN WHICH HAVE NOT THE SEAL OF GOD IN THEIR FOREHEADS.**

Grass = people

“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. (Isa. 40:7, 8; also 1 Pet. 1:24).

Tree = leader

“The tree that thou sawest... It is thou, O king, [Babylon] that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth” (Daniel 4:20, 22).

Green thing = those who trust/hope in the Lord

“Thus says the LORD: ‘Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited. Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit” (Jeremiah 17:5-8).

Seal of God = Gift of the Holy Spirit

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” (Ephesians 1:13).

Symbols Summarized:

- Tree = leader
- Grass = people
- Green thing = those who trust/hope in the Lord



Death shall flee from them—“Men were weary of life, when life was spared only for a renewal of woe, and when all that they accounted sacred was violated, and all that they held dear constantly endangered, and the savage Saracens domineered over them, or left them only to a momentary repose, ever liable to be suddenly or violently interrupted, as if by the sting of a scorpion.” (1897 UrS, DAR 504.4).

Horses —“The Arabian horse takes the lead throughout the world; and skill in horsemanship is the art and science of Arabia. And the barbed Arabs, swift as locusts and armed like scorpions, ready to dart away in a moment, were ever prepared unto battle” (1897 UrS, DAR 504).

Crowns of gold—“And on their heads were as it were crowns like gold.’ When Mohammed entered Medina (A.D. 622), and was first received as its prince, ‘a turban was unfurled before him to supply the deficiency of a standard.’ **The turbans of the Saracens, like unto a coronet, were their ornament and their boast.** The rich booty abundantly supplied and frequently renewed them. To assume the turbans is proverbially to turn Mussulman. And the Arabs were anciently distinguished by the miters which they wore” (1897 UrS, DAR 504, 505).

Hair of women—“Long hair” is esteemed an ornament by women. **The Arabs, unlike other men, had their hair as the hair of women, or uncut, as their practice is recorded by Pliny and others.** But there was nothing effeminate in their character; for, as denoting their ferocity and strength to devour, their teeth were as the teeth of the lions” (1897 UrS, DAR 505).

The Breastplate—“The cuirass (or breastplate) was in use among the Arabs in the days of Mohammed. In the battle of Ohud (the second which Mohammed fought) with the Koreish of Mecca (A.D. 624), ‘seven hundred of them were armed with cuirasses.’” (1897 UrS, DAR 505.5)

•Seal of God = Gift of Holy Spirit

REVELATION 8:5—**AND TO THEM IT WAS GIVEN THAT THEY SHOULD NOT KILL THEM, BUT THAT THEY SHOULD BE TORMENTED FIVE MONTHS: AND THEIR TORMENT WAS AS THE TORMENT OF A SCORPION, WHEN HE STRIKETH A MAN.**

“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19).

REVELATION 9:6—**AND IN THOSE DAYS SHALL MEN SEEK DEATH, AND SHALL NOT FIND IT; AND SHALL DESIRE TO DIE, AND DEATH SHALL FLEE FROM THEM.**

“Why is light given to him who is in misery, And life to the bitter of soul, **Who long for death, but it does not come,** And search for it more than hidden treasures” (Job 2:20, 21).

“But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. **And he prayed that he might die,** and said, ‘It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!’” (1 Kings 19:4).

REVELATION 9:7—**AND THE SHAPES OF THE LOCUSTS WERE LIKE UNTO HORSES PREPARED UNTO BATTLE; AND ON THEIR HEADS WERE AS IT WERE CROWNS LIKE GOLD, AND THEIR FACES WERE AS THE FACES OF MEN.**

REVELATION 9:8—**AND THEY HAD HAIR AS THE HAIR OF WOMEN, AND THEIR TEETH WERE AS THE TEETH OF LIONS.**

REVELATION 9:9—**AND THEY HAD BREASTPLATES, AS IT WERE BREASTPLATES OF IRON; AND THE SOUND OF THEIR WINGS WAS AS THE SOUND OF CHARIOTS OF MANY HORSES RUNNING TO BATTLE.**

REVELATION 9:10—**AND THEY HAD TAILS LIKE UNTO SCORPIONS, AND THERE WERE STINGS IN THEIR TAILS: AND THEIR POWER WAS TO HURT MEN FIVE MONTHS.**

REVELATION 9:11—**AND THEY HAD A KING OVER THEM, WHICH IS THE ANGEL OF THE BOTTOMLESS PIT, WHOSE NAME IN THE HEBREW TONGUE IS ABADDON, BUT IN THE GREEK TONGUE HATH HIS NAME APOLLYON.**

Symbols Summarized:

•Torment = Assaults and incursions of Turks



The Sound of Their Wings—“The charge of the Arabs was not, like that of the Greeks and Romans, the efforts of a firm and compact infantry; **their military force was chiefly formed of cavalry and archers. With a touch of the hand, the Arab horses darted away with the swiftness of the wind.** “The sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.” Their conquests were marvelous both in rapidity and extent, and their attack was instantaneous. Nor was it less successful against the Romans than the Persians” (1897 UrS, DAR 505).

Five Months—“The calculations of some writers have gone upon the supposition that the period should begin with the foundation of the Ottoman empire; but this is evidently an error; for they were not only to have a king over them, but were to torment men five months. **But the period of torment could not begin before the first attack of the tormentors, which was... July 27, 1299**” (1897 UrS, DAR 507).

‘And their power was to hurt men five months.’ Thus far their commission extended, to torment by constant depredations, but not politically to kill them. ‘Five months,’ thirty days to a month, give us one hundred and fifty days; and these days, being symbolic, signify one hundred and fifty years. **Commencing July 27, 1299, the one hundred and fifty years reach to 1449. During that whole period the Turks were engaged in an almost perpetual warfare with the Greek empire, but yet without conquering it.** They seized upon and held several of the Greek provinces, but still Greek independence was maintained in Constantinople. **But in 1449, the termination of the one hundred and fifty years, a change came, the history of which will be found under the succeeding trumpet.** (1897 UrS, DAR 507).

- Death flees from them = misery and ruin**
- Horses = chief weapon of Arabs**
- Crowns of gold = turbans of Arabs**
- Hair of women = hair of Arabs**
- Breastplates of iron = armor of Arabs**
- Sound of their wings = Sounds of many horses**
- King over them = Othman (Ottoman Empire begins)**
- Five months = 150 literal years 1299 to 1449**

Summary—The apostasy of the Christian church during the dark ages led to image worship obscuring the heavenly mediation of Christ’s and His righteousness and the power and mediation of the Holy Spirit.

This brought divine judgments in the form of the Turks who rose up to destroy the apostasy while sparing those who worshiped God according to the Bible.

In the 13th century the Turks organized under Othman and on July 27, 1299 began tormenting attacks against the Eastern Roman or Greek empire that lasted until its fall in 1449.

Present truth—history repeated—Today satan has almost universal control over the world, filling it with darkness and chaos. It is in great need of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Satan opens up darkness and chaos to produce idleness and idol worship as in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. He does this to darken our minds to the gospel of Jesus Christ and the wooing power of the Holy Spirit. Muslims still exist and refuse to compromise with idol worship in the Christian world. People and leaders who trust in God and do not worship idols have nothing to fear from God’s judgments. Those sealed with the Holy Spirit are eternally safe from the destruction that comes upon the wicked.

HISTORICAL NOTES—

Key of Bottomless Pit—

Popery had become the world’s despot. Kings and emperors bowed to the decrees of the Roman pontiff. The destinies of men, both for time and for eternity, seemed under his control. For hundreds of years the doctrines of Rome had been extensively and implicitly received, its rites reverently performed, its festivals generally observed. Its clergy were honored and liberally sustained. Never since has the Roman Church attained to greater dignity, magnificence, or power. (The Great Controversy, p. 60).



They had a king over the-“From the death of Mohammed until near the close of the thirteenth century, the Mohammedans were divided into various factions under several leaders, with no general civil government extending over them all. **Near the close of the thirteenth century, Othman founded a government which has since been known as the Ottoman government, or empire, which grew until it extended over all the principal Mohammedan tribes, consolidating them into one grand monarchy.** (1897 UrS, DAR 506.5)

But when did Othman make his first assault on the Greek empire? - According to Gibbon, Decline and Fall, etc., ‘**Othman first entered the territory of Nicomedia on the 27th day of July, 1299.**’ (1897 UrS, DAR 507).

“In that age this sentence, whenever pronounced, created widespread alarm. **The ceremonies by which it was accompanied were well adapted to strike terror to a people who looked upon the pope as the representative of God Himself, holding the keys of heaven and hell, and possessing power to invoke temporal as well as spiritual judgments.** It was believed that the gates of heaven were closed against the region smitten with interdict; that until it should please the pope to remove the ban, the dead were shut out from the abodes of bliss. In token of this terrible calamity, all the services of religion were suspended. The churches were closed. Marriages were solemnized in the churchyard. The dead, denied burial in consecrated ground, were interred, without the rites of sepulture, in the ditches or the fields. **Thus by measures which appealed to the imagination, Rome essayed to control the consciences of men.** (The Great Controversy, p. 101).

“The official appointed to conduct the sale of indulgences in Germany--Tetzel by name--had been convicted of the basest offenses against society and against the law of God; but having escaped the punishment due for his crimes, he was employed to further the mercenary and unscrupulous projects of the pope. With great effrontery he repeated the most glaring falsehoods and related marvelous tales to deceive an ignorant, credulous, and superstitious people. Had they possessed the word of God they would not have been thus deceived. **It was to keep them under the control of the papacy, in order to swell the power and wealth of her ambitious leaders, that the Bible had been withheld from them.**” (See John C. L. Gieseler, A Compendium of Ecclesiastical History, per. 4, sec. 1, par. 5.) (The Great Controversy, p. 127).

Sun and Air darkened

“The detector of error having been removed, Satan worked according to his will. Prophecy had declared that the papacy was to ‘think to change times and laws.’ Daniel 7:25. This work it was not slow to attempt. **To afford converts from heathenism a substitute for the worship of idols, and thus to promote their nominal acceptance of Christianity, the adoration of images and relics was gradually introduced into the Christian worship.** The decree of a general council (see Appendix) finally established this system of idolatry. To complete the sacrilegious work, Rome presumed to expunge from the law of God the second commandment, forbidding image worship, and to divide the tenth commandment, in order to preserve the number” (The Great Controversy, pp. 51, 52).

“**The darkness seemed to grow more dense. Image worship became more general. Candles were burned before images, and prayers were offered to them.** The most absurd and superstitious customs prevailed. The minds of men were so completely controlled by superstition that reason itself seemed to have lost its sway. **While priests and bishops were themselves**



pleasure-loving, sensual, and corrupt, it could only be expected that the people who looked to them for guidance would be sunken in ignorance and vice” (The Great Controversy, p. 57).

The pope had bestowed on these monks the power to hear confessions and to grant pardon. **This became a source of great evil.** Bent on enhancing their gains, the friars were so ready to grant absolution that criminals of all descriptions resorted to them, and, as a result, **the worst vices rapidly increased.** The sick and the poor were left to suffer, while the gifts that should have relieved their wants went to the monks, who with threats demanded the alms of the people, denouncing the impiety of those who should withhold gifts from their orders. Notwithstanding their profession of poverty, the wealth of the friars was constantly increasing, and their magnificent edifices and luxurious tables made more apparent the growing poverty of the nation. And while spending their time in luxury and pleasure, they sent out in their stead ignorant men, who could only recount marvelous tales, legends, and jests to amuse the people and make them still more completely the dupes of the monks. **Yet the friars continued to maintain their hold on the superstitious multitudes and led them to believe that all religious duty was comprised in acknowledging the supremacy of the pope, adoring the saints, and making gifts to the monks, and that this was sufficient to secure them a place in heaven.** (The Great Controversy, p. 83, 84).

The worship of images and relics, the invocation of saints, and the exaltation of the pope are devices of Satan to attract the minds of the people from God and from His Son. To accomplish their ruin, he endeavors to turn their attention from Him through whom alone they can find salvation. He will direct them to any object that can be substituted for the One who has said: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. (The Great Controversy, p. 568).

Smoke of the Pit—

Another evil against which the Reformer [John Wycliffe] waged long and resolute battle was the institution of the orders of mendicant friars. These friars swarmed in England, casting a blight upon the greatness and prosperity of the nation. Industry, education, morals, all felt the withering influence. **The monk's life of idleness and beggary was not only a heavy drain upon the resources of the people, but it brought useful labor into contempt.** The youth were demoralized and corrupted. By the influence of the friars many were induced to enter a cloister and devote themselves to a monastic life, and this not only without the consent of their parents, but even without their knowledge and contrary to their commands. One of the early Fathers of the Roman Church, urging the claims of monasticism above the obligations of filial love and duty, had declared: 'Though thy father should lie before thy door weeping and lamenting, and thy mother should show the body that bore thee and the breasts that nursed thee, see that thou trample them underfoot, and go onward straightway to Christ.' By this 'monstrous inhumanity,' as Luther afterward styled it, 'savoring more of the wolf and the tyrant than of the Christian and the man,' were the hearts of children steeled against their parents.--Barnas Sears, The Life of Luther, pages 70, 69. (The Great Controversy, p. 82).

Luther was still a true son of the papal church and had no thought that he would ever be anything else. In the providence of God he was led to visit Rome. He pursued his journey on foot, lodging at the monasteries on the way. At a convent in Italy he was filled with wonder at the wealth, magnificence, and luxury that he witnessed. **Endowed with a princely revenue, the monks dwelt in splendid apartments, attired themselves in the richest and most costly robes, and feasted at a sumptuous table.** With painful misgivings Luther contrasted this scene with the self-denial and hardship of his own life. His mind was becoming perplexed. (The Great Controversy, p. 124).

He entered the city, visited the churches, listened to the marvelous tales repeated by priests and monks, and performed all the ceremonies required. Everywhere he looked upon scenes that filled him with astonishment and horror. **He saw that iniquity existed among all classes of the clergy. He heard indecent jokes from prelates, and was filled with horror at their awful profanity, even during mass.** As he mingled with the monks and citizens he met dissipation, debauchery. Turn where he would, in the place of sanctity he found profanation. 'No one can imagine,' he wrote, 'what sins and infamous actions are committed in Rome; they must be seen and heard to be believed. **Thus they are in the habit of saying, 'If there is a hell, Rome is**



built over it: it is an abyss whence issues every kind of sin.”--Ibid., b. 2, ch. 6. (The Great Controversy, p. 124)

“Luther, while a student at school, had buried himself in a convent cell, and he would have been lost to the world had not God’s providence released him. Zwingli was not permitted to encounter the same peril. Providentially his father received information of the designs of the friars. **He had no intention of allowing his son to follow the idle and worthless life of the monks.** He saw that his future usefulness was at stake, and directed him to return home without delay. (The Great Controversy, pp. 172, 173).

“Luther’s writings were welcomed alike in city and in hamlet. ‘What Luther and his friends composed, others circulated. **Monks, convinced of the unlawfulness of monastic obligations, desirous of exchanging a long life of slothfulness for one of active exertion,** but too ignorant to proclaim the word of God, traveled through the provinces, visiting hamlets and cottages, where they sold the books of Luther and his friends. Germany soon swarmed with these bold colporteurs.” --Ibid., b. 9, ch. 11. (The Great Controversy, pp. 194).

Locusts out of the smoke—

“A dark and threatening day had come for the Reformation. Notwithstanding the Edict of Worms, declaring Luther to be an outlaw and forbidding the teaching or belief of his doctrines, religious toleration had thus far prevailed in the empire. God’s providence had held in check the forces that opposed the truth. Charles V was bent on crushing the Reformation, but often as he raised his hand to strike he had been forced to turn aside the blow. **Again and again the immediate destruction of all who dared to oppose themselves to Rome appeared inevitable; but at the critical moment the armies of the Turk appeared on the eastern frontier,** or the king of France, or even the pope himself, jealous of the increasing greatness of the emperor, made war upon him; and thus, amid the strife and tumult of nations, the Reformation had been left to strengthen and extend. (The Great Controversy, p.197).