

The Seven Heads of Revelation 17

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17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

The angel reveals more information about the character and nature of the scarlet-colored beast, defining the “seven heads.” The seven heads are on the scarlet-colored beast. This beast is representative of the revived church-state religio-political union, which itself is formed under the direction of the mother of harlots, the papacy, who has been instigating her daughters, the Apostate Protestant churches of America, to enlist the “dragon”, or legislative body of the American “Empire.” The legislators, wishing to satisfy their constituency, willingly cooperate to mandate a National Sunday Law, thereby coercing worship in an America that once enjoyed religious liberty.

The seven mountains – all apostate churches

The “seven mountains” give the first indication of the nature of the seven heads. As we will see, the heads are both ecclesiastic and civil, representing both church and state. It is the woman, the papacy, that will direct both at the end of time commencing in America before becoming global. She will orchestrate the unholy amalgamated union between a pagan imperial state and an apostate church to create a third and final church-state union to come against Jesus’ final ministry in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary, and against Christ’s pure remnant Seventh-day Sabbath-keeping church. It is Satan’s final attempt to prevent the 144,000 from being formed. Why? Because they will each perfectly reflect Christ’s character and prove Satan’s allegation false, that no one can keep the Commandments of God while in fallen flesh. Once his allegation has been fully disproven, it is game over. It is then that Christ will come to deliver His own.

To all the holy angels and to all unfallen created beings, Satan’s deceptive and murderous intentions were unmasked at the cross. It became glaringly evident that Satan’s government was not altruistic but rather completely totalitarian with Satan as sole ruler. He cared nothing for his followers. His only care was completely selfish, to exalt himself over all life as god (church) and king (state). But man’s perception was darkened by sin. We were unable to discern that it was Satan who was instigating the crucifixion of Jesus. But man’s eyes must be opened to perceive the wiles of this great apostate. This will only occur at the end of time when Jesus will have perfectly reproduced his selfless character in 144,000 of God’s pure witnesses. The world will see Jesus in them. When this group undergoes intense persecution at the end of time, their witness will be in sharp contrast between them and their accusers. And everyone still on the earth at that time will take notice. It will become evident that Satan is once again instigating the destruction of all who represent Christ to the world. For once they have given their testimony and called all of God’s people out of a fallen “Babylon” of religious and spiritual ideologies of false worship, and every living person has irrevocably made up their mind to worship the Creator God or Satan, then it is truly game over for Satan.

“Mountain”

In scripture, the term “mountain” has been used to depict the dominion of a sovereign’s legitimate rule, inclusive of his entire kingdom. Further, to “sit” is to occupy the throne as sovereign. God sits as sovereign (Dan 7:9; Rev 20:11) on His holy mountain, or heavenly kingdom (Eze 20:40; 28:14; Dan 9:16,20; Joel 2:1; 3:17). Lucifer, the inveterate counterfeiter, arrogantly claims that “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.” (Isa 14:13).

"Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of His creatures, it was Lucifer's endeavor to win their service and homage to himself. And coveting the honor which the infinite Father had bestowed upon His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power which it was the prerogative of Christ alone to wield." {GC88 494.1}

The "mount of the congregation" is principally described throughout much of scripture as the "tabernacle of the congregation", relating to the sanctuary where God dwelt with his people, to beneficently direct their lives and receive their praise and worship. Lucifer's statement of wishing to sit on the mount of the congregation indicated his intention to not only control the worldly affairs of his subjects as their king, exalting his "throne above the stars of God," but also to control their conscience and allegiance, demanding their exclusive worship as their god, sitting "also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north" (Isaiah 14:13).

Representing her satanic master, the woman sits, or claims sovereignty over the world. "Seven mountains" depict all apostate churches at the end of time. When the final church-state union is legally mandated, the papacy will have dominion over a religio-political kingdom that is global. Isaiah further clarifies this state of affairs: "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." (Isaiah 4:1). The "seven women" represent all apostate churches. They profess Christianity and accept the form of godliness, but deny the power. (2 Tim 3:5). They insist on eating "their own bread," or believing their own doctrine counter to God's Word (2 Tim 3:16-17). They also wear their own apparel, depending upon their own self-righteousness (Matt 22:11-13), and not on Christ's righteousness (Isa 61:10). They only want to be called "Christian" to take away their reproach so they can appear godly but lack the power of Christ in their lives (2 Tim 3:2-5).

"Papists, Protestants, and worldling 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." {Mar 190.4}.

At the end of time, God's pure church will not be concerned for themselves, but instead will be in agony as they reflect on how their lives may have been a reproach to God's holy name.

Though God's people will be surrounded by enemies who are bent upon their destruction, yet the anguish which they suffer is not a dread of persecution for the truth's sake; they fear that every sin has not been repented of, and that through some fault in themselves they will fail to realize the fulfillment of the Saviour's promise: I "will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world." Revelation 3:10. If they could have the assurance of pardon they would not shrink from torture or death; but **should they prove unworthy, and lose their lives because of their own defects of character, then God's holy name would be reproached.** {GC 619.1}

Such is Satan's studied design, to mislead souls to their utter ruin, by obfuscating the truth of Christ, His Law, and His prophetic Word.

17:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

The seven kings of the Roman Republic, the Roman Empire, Papal Rome, and Revived Papal Rome

At the time John received this revelation, Imperial Rome, the sixth in sequence of Roman governance, was the controlling head. The five heads of the Roman Republic had simultaneously fallen, or were passed. The one head yet to come was the papal head, or seventh head of Roman rule, and when it came it would continue for a "short space", or a short time. This short time is consistent with the short time ascribed to Satan's remaining time to persecute God's people in Rev 12:12. Satan's "short"

remaining time was marked from the cross until he would meet his end soon after the millennium. (Rev 20:10).

The life of the scarlet-colored beast, the final phase of Rome, begins with the passage of the National Sunday Law in America. This event is heralded in Rev 13:11, when the lamb-like beast of the United States speaks with the civil authority of a “dragon”, and legally re-establishes the church-state union, thereby healing the deadly wound of the seventh head, and reviving papal power.

The seventh head would have three phases: first, as the papacy, it would rule Rome for 1260 years commencing in 538; second, it would receive a deadly wound in 1798; third, it would be healed of its deadly wound with the passage of Sunday legislation in America, under the auspices of the mother harlot’s Apostate Protestant daughters. The healed seventh head would direct the scarlet-colored beast until the second coming of Christ, when the mother (the beast), and her daughters (the false prophet) would meet their doom in the lake of fire. (Rev 19:20). The time from 538 to Christ’s second coming spans the life, mortal wound, and revival of the seventh head of Rome. This is the “short space” that the seventh head continues after it first awakens to Roman rule.

So the first phase of Rome, as a Republic, requires the first five heads for its governance. The second phase of Rome, as an Empire, requires one head, the sixth, for its governance. The third phase of Rome, as Papal Rome, requires one head, the seventh, for its governance. The fourth and final phase of a revived Papal Rome, manifested in the Apostate Protestant American Empire, requires one head, the healed seventh head, for its governance.

The seven heads of Rome as seven mountains

The seven heads are connected to the seven mountains. The seven mountains, as religio-political domains of the entire apostate world under papal dominion, are controlled by “heads”. Daniel’s vision gives insight into the meaning of the heads (Dan 7:4-7). Four “great beasts” came up from the “sea” of populous nations of ancient Babylonia (the Middle East and Asia Minor), North Africa, and Europe, extending even to India. The imagery of each of the four great beasts designated a specific number of “heads” to each beast. The image of the lion of Babylon, representing a succession of Babylonian kings, made no mention of heads. The image of the bear of Medo-Persia, representing successive Persian kings, made no mention of heads. The image of the leopard of Grecia, however, was assigned four heads, indicative of the four generals who vied for control of Grecia after the death of Alexander the Great. These four kings ruled simultaneously over four distinct regions of Grecia. Through alliance and intrigue, the four were reduced to two, culminating in the kings of the “North” and “South”, as two competing dynasties of the northern Seleucids and southern Ptolemies.

The fourth beast, depicting Rome, was seen to have ten horns, but no mention was made of heads (Dan 7:20). Not until this same ten-horned beast was shown to John, did seven heads emerge in the imagery. The ten horns of John’s vision link the seven-headed ten-horned figure to Daniel’s vision of the Roman “dreadful and terrible” “fourth beast”. The Revelation was to provide greater detail and clarity of the fourth beast’s prophetic role and actions.

This fourth beast was “diverse from all the beasts that were before it.” The first three beasts were successive kingdoms that overthrew one after the other by military conquest. Belshazzar’s Babylonia fell to Medo-Persia through the conquest of Persia’s Cyrus II the Great in 539 BC. Persia’s Darius III Codomanus fell to Grecia’s Alexander the Great in 331 BC. But Rome’s conquest of Grecia was not to be by military overthrow. As Rome’s power gained the ascendancy, Rome was not yet an Empire, but still a Republic. Established in 509 BC, the Roman Republic continued until its demise in 27 BC, when it collapsed into an Empire.

Rome, as a Republic, intervened through ‘muscle diplomacy’ to squelch Grecian intimidation of Egypt. In 168 BC, Seleucid King Antiochus IV had again invaded Egypt and occupied Lower Egypt with his forces camped outside Alexandria. However, the Roman ambassador in Alexandria, Gaius Popillius Laenas, intervened. He presented Antiochus IV with an ultimatum that he evacuate Egypt and Cyprus

immediately. Antiochus, taken by surprise, asked for time to consider. Popillius, however, drew a circle in the earth (i.e. "a line in the sand") around the king with his walking stick and demanded an unequivocal answer before Antiochus left the circle. Fearing the consequences of a war with Rome, the king agreed to comply with the ambassador's demands. In return, the Romans agreed that Antiochus IV could retain southern Syria, to which Egypt had laid claim, thus enabling Antiochus IV to preserve the territorial integrity of his realm. Rome established diplomatic sovereignty over Grecia. This event, described in Dan 11:16, established Rome, at this time a Republic, as a conquering "beast" in the succession of kingdoms in the pre-Christian era.

Rome was "diverse" from the preceding three beasts not only in its method of conquest, but also in its governmental structure. Commencing in 509 BC, Rome as a nation would restructure through four distinct governing systems, spanning the duration until Christ's second coming and the ensuing collapse of all life on earth. The "seven heads" of the Roman "beast" would delineate the specific modes of rule through these four governmental systems.

Although Rome was legendarily a kingdom with seven successive kings between 753-509 BC, it was not purely Roman, but also Etruscan. As such, the kings of Rome would not be included in the modes of government depicted by the seven heads of a purely Roman beast.

Seven modes, or "heads", of Roman government over four distinct governing systems commencing in 509 BC and continuing until the second coming of Christ

The Roman Republic (509 – 27 BC) – the first five Roman "heads"

As a Republic, Rome was autonomous, and was ruled by five branches of governance, each offering checks and balances necessary to prevent Rome from descending into its previous system of ruling kings. These five branches of the Roman Republic constituted the first "five heads" of the seven governing modes of the Roman beast, and included:

Five (5) Branches of Government	Republic of Ancient Rome (Constitutional Republic)	
	Patricians (Wealthy Class; Founding Aristocracy)	Plebeians (Commoners; Emerging Aristocracy)
Executive (Supreme command; leads political direction of the Republic; protects Republic as Commander in Chief of Military)	Consuls/ Provincial Governors (Proconsuls & Proprætors)	Tribunes
Legislative (Lawmaking body; elects heads of state; votes on civil laws and military matters affecting the Republic)	Consuls/ Senate/ Assembly of the Curiae/ Assembly of the Centuries/ Assembly of the Tribes	Tribunes/ Assembly of the Tribes and its plebeian subgroup, Concilium Plebis
Judicial (Interprets laws; court of appeals; declares war)	Consuls/ Equestrians/ Prætors/ Assembly of the Centuries	Assembly of the Tribes
Administrative & Financial (Manages daily affairs of Republic life)	Consuls/ Censors/ Senate/ Prætors/ Curule Aediles/ Quaestors	Tribunes/ Plebeian Aediles
Military (Protects Republic from internal strife and external attack)	Consuls/ Prætors/ Dictators/ Generals	Military Tribunes/ Generals

1. **The Head of Executive Power of the Republic:** The Executive Branch – The wealthy founding families of the patrician aristocracy, which initially assumed leadership of the Republic, through the Senate, elected two co-rulers, as consuls, to a position of supreme command for one year, each having the principal position for one month alternating. The consular role was to protect the nation as commander in chief of the military, and to lead the political direction of the Republic by leading Senate meetings and introducing legislation for popular vote. Later, the commoner class of plebians elected their representatives of tribunes, which after 257 BC had equivalent influence as the consuls over Roman affairs and politics.
2. **The Head of Legislative Power of the Republic:** The Legislative Branch – The patrician Senate acted as a check to the consular position, and the plebeian Assembly acted their part to check the power of the tribunes. Each had voting capacity to elect consuls and tribunes, respectively, and had a say in the affairs of Rome to engage in war and manage times of peace.
3. **The Head of Judicial Power of the Republic:** The Judicial Branch – The patrician Senate and Equestrian class, consuls and praetors, and the plebeian Assembly, were called upon to interpret laws, elect heads of state, and vote on civil matters affecting the Republic.
4. **The Head of Administration & Financial Power of the Republic:** The Administrative Branch – Patrician consuls, aediles and censors, and plebeian tribunes managed the daily affairs of Republic life.
5. **The Head of Military Power of the Republic:** The Military Branch – the Senate appointed a dictator for a 6-month term of office to deal with national security from incursions along Rome's borders. The role of preserving national security could also be filled by consuls, praetors, tribunes and generals.

It is of note that the **United States Constitutional Republic has the same 5 systems of governance.**

Branch of Government	Ancient Republic of Rome				Republic of the United States of America	
	Constitutional Republic		Provincial		Federal	State
	Patricians	Plebeians	Patricians	Plebeians		
Executive	Consuls	Tribunes	Governors		President/VP	Governors
Legislative	Senate	Assembly			Congress	State Congress
Judicial	Senate/Equestrians	Assembly			Supreme Court/ Federal Judges	State Supreme Court/ State Judges
Administrative & Financial	Consuls	Tribunes	Aediles		Cabinet/ Bureaucracy	Directors of State Agencies
Military	Consuls/ Dictators/ Generals	Military Tribunes/ Generals			President/ Generals/ Admirals/ Intelligence Community	State Police/ National Guard

Five (5) Branches of Government	Republic of Ancient Rome		Republic of the United States of America
	Constitutional Republic • Provinces		Federal • State
	Patricians (Wealthy Class; Founding Aristocracy)	Plebeians (Commoners; Emerging Aristocracy)	
Executive (Supreme command; leads political direction of the Republic; protects Republic as Commander in Chief of Military)	Consuls • Provincial Governors	Tribunes	President/ VP • State Governors
Legislative (Lawmaking body)	Consuls/ Senate	Tribunes/ Assembly	Federal Congress (Senate/ House of Representatives) • State Congresses
Judicial (Interprets laws; votes for heads of state and on civil matters affecting the Republic)	Senate/Equestrians	Assembly	Federal Supreme Court/ Judges • State Supreme Courts
Administrative & Financial (Manages daily affairs of Republic life)	Consuls/ Aediles/ Censors	Tribunes	President's Cabinet/ Federal Administrative Bureaucracies • State Administrative Bureaucracies
Military (Protects Republic from internal strife and external attack)	Consuls/ Dictators/ Generals	Military Tribunes/ Generals	President/ Armed Forces Generals & Admirals/Intelligence Community • Governors/ National Guard/ State Police

It should here be noted that the delineation of the seven heads all being Roman systems of government was shared by virtually all the Advent pioneers who studied and wrote regarding the seven-headed ten-horned imagery of Revelation.

As noted by Uriah Smith:

... all accept as unquestionable the fact that all the heads of the dragon must represent some feature of that government which the dragon symbolizes, which, according to the Spirit of prophecy, is Rome; and hence they do not ignore the fundamental principle that we cannot go outside of Rome for any of the heads. Adhering to this self-evident principle, one cannot go far astray in his application of these features of the great red dragon, and the same seven heads of the beasts of Revelation 13 and 17. URIAH SMITH. {ND UrS, SHR 40.1}

When the Roman Republic fell by 27 BC, all five heads of the Republic fell simultaneously ("five are fallen.")

The Roman Empire (Western Empire: 27 BC – 476 AD; Eastern Empire: 331 AD – 1453 AD) – the sixth Roman “head”

The Roman Republic gave way to the Roman Empire in 27 BC. The Empire initially continued to function like the Republic, with one significant exception – the emperor had sole control over the military without the say of the Senate. During the reign of Emperor Constantine, the Roman Empire effectively split into two Empires, East and West, when the empire's capital was moved from the city of Rome to

Constantinople by 330 AD. The empire was further divided into thirds (Western, Middle, and Eastern Divisions) between Constantine's three sons as his heirs. After internal fighting, the Roman Empire settled into Western (combining the Western and Middle Divisions) and Eastern Empires each having autonomous emperors.

The collapse of the Western Roman Empire began in 356 with barbarian invasions. These judgments against the empire commenced soon after Constantine's apostasy, instigated by papal ambition, coercing worship by decreeing an imperial Sunday Law (3/7/321). Barbarian incursions continued, restricting progress of the Universal Catholic Church, until 476, when Western Roman Emperor Romulus Augustus was forced to abnegate the throne, thus ending the Western Roman Empire.

The Eastern Roman Empire, in apostasy during the reign of Justinian I in 538, legally established a church-state union, and brought judgments upon itself in the form of Muslim incursions by Arabs and Turks, which ultimately led to the Empire's collapse in 1453 AD.

- 6. The Head of Imperial Power:** The seven-headed ten-horned great red dragon of Imperial Rome (Rev 12:3) represented the "sixth head", following the first five heads of the Roman Republic. The crowns were placed on the heads of the great red dragon signifying the ruling authority of imperial Roman government.

Papal Rome (538 – 1798 AD) – the seventh Roman "head" that receives a "deadly wound"

The imagery of the seven-headed ten-horned beast is again found in Rev 13:1, where the next phase of Rome is introduced – the church-state union of Papal Rome –depicted as a "leopard-like beast", or "sea beast". The crowns were placed upon the ten horns, signifying the sovereignty of the 10 European Monarchies emergent from the barbarian hordes that conquered the Western Roman Empire. The dragon, as Satan acting through his human agencies of civil authorities of the Western monarchies and the Eastern Roman emperor, would yield their power, seat and authority to the papacy. This transfer of power would occur between 508 and 538 AD, commencing with the first Catholic monarch, King Clovis of the Franks, conquering Alaric II and the Arian Visigoths, in 508, and would conclude with Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian I, with his General Belisarius, conquering the Arian Gothic Vandals, under Gelimer, in 534, and Arian Ostrogoths, under Theodoric, in 538.

Once the Arian Gothic kingdoms were subdued, and their policy of religious liberty annihilated, Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian I legally abolished all competing religions, naming Roman Catholicism as the empire's official religion. By law, Justinian established the papacy as the corrector of heretics and head of all churches of the empire, and legally codified church canon into Roman civil law, known as the Justinian Law Code. The church-state union was now complete. The papally ruled "Universal" Catholic Church, now the official religion of the entire Roman Empire, would continue in this role for a prophetic 1260 years, until its legal abolishment in 1798 by French General Berthier, under Napoleon I.

The heads are seen to have the name of blasphemy, indicating an ecclesiastic quality to the heads of Rev 13:1. The papacy claimed to forgive sins and to be God on earth, both blasphemous claims biblically (Luke 5:21; John 10:33).

- 7. A. The Head of Papal Power (that receives the "deadly wound"):** The head of this phase of the Roman "beast", ruling for 1260 years (538-1798) as the papacy in legal union with the civil power of the state, is the "seventh head" of Roman governance, following the five of the Roman Republic, and the sixth of Imperial Rome.

But this "seventh head" is dealt a "deadly wound" in 1798 AD, ending 1260 years of legal power and authority to persecute heretics, and enthrone and dethrone kings. *Rev 13:3 "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."* On February 15, 1798, French General Berthier, under Napoleon Bonaparte, legally declared

Italy a sovereign Roman Republic, free of papal oppression. The reigning Pope Pius VI was taken captive, dying in captivity on July 28, 1799.

Deadly wound healed through Apostate Protestantism in league with United States Legislature, having repudiated every principle of its Constitution, thereby effectively becoming an “Apostate Protestant American Empire” (From the passage of the National Sunday Law to the second coming of Christ) – the revived seventh Roman “head” whose deadly wound is healed

7. **B. The Revived Head of Papal Power (whose “deadly wound” was healed):** This same “seventh head” that had received the deadly wound, would be healed of its deadly wound with the legal re-establishment of the church-state union. Under the guidance of the mother Roman Catholic Church, her Apostate Protestant daughters in the United States would pressure their legislators to enact a law mandating worship in honor of the papacy, as a Sunday law. In order to secure public favor, legislators would yield to popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. With the passage of a National Sunday Law, the seventh head of papal power would be fully revived, once again to become corrector of heretics and head of all churches. The entire Apostate Protestant world would “wonder after the beast”. (Rev 13:3).

17:11 *And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.*

The beast and eighth head of a global church-state union – Rome’s end game

The angel reiterates the sequence of “was, is not, yet is”, adding an additional feature to the revived church-state union of the scarlet-colored beast. This Apostate Protestant American religio-political Empire is the “eighth”, and is of the seven, and goes into perdition. Here the angel repeats part of verse 8, clearly acknowledging this beast as the scarlet-colored beast that ascended out of the bottomless pit, ultimately going into perdition as the false prophet. As the “eighth”, it is a leading entity that rules Satan’s confederated forces. America, in its imperial state, having revived papal power and wrought tyranny on its soil, establishes a precedent for global extension of religious despotism.

Satan, through his papal agency, will stop at nothing short of world dominion. The world wonders after the beast, as Protestants in apostasy worldwide follow suit, and the global civil elite leadership in union with the papacy establish a Universal Sunday Law, coercing worship in every country. This is Rome’s end game of world control. “The man of sin has worked with a marvelous perseverance to exalt the spurious sabbath, and the disloyal Protestant world has wondered after the beast, and has called obedience to the Sabbath instituted by Jehovah disloyalty to the laws of the nations. Kingdoms have confederated to sustain a false sabbath institution, which has not a word of authority in the oracles of God.” {RH, February 6, 1900 par. 14}

The scarlet-colored beast, in its religio-political capacity with legal authority, leagues with the global elite to secure a law that coerces worship of the papacy, and by extension, of Satan, by all his willing subjects. Rev 13:12-17 describes the methods and measures adopted by the scarlet-colored beast to enforce this false and idolatrous worship system. First by measures of cajoling and bribery, then by stronger measures of economic sanctions, then yet bolder measures yet of exile, imprisonment, torture, and ultimately, death, until a decree will be released to kill all who will not bow to the papacy and worship as she demands. The papacy will stand between her subjects and the remnant people of God (Dan 11:45), but finally to no avail. An indomitable remnant of God’s people, wholly dependent upon their Creator, are obedient to the Law of God, even unto death. Theirs is an uncompromising faith, trusting completely in their Maker.

17:12 *And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.*

17:13 *These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.*

The historical ten horns – the ten Monarchies of Europe

The ten horns on the scarlet-colored beast are brought into view. Historically, the ten horns upon which the crowns were found in the leopard-like beast of Rev 13:1, represented the ten Monarchies of Western Europe arising from the barbarian hordes that decimated the Western Roman Empire from 356 to 476, ultimately crushing the Western Roman Empire's sovereignty by 476.

The ten horns at the end of time – the ten “kings” of the civil global elite leadership

The ten horns, or ten kings, on the scarlet-colored beast are without crowns, so no sovereignty is associated with them. Yet they are instrumental in the end game of papal control over the world's population. The ten kings comprise the leadership of the global elite, already desirous of exalting the papacy as the sole sovereign of the earth. In our day we are watching a confederation of global forces coalesce into a global elite, inclusive thus far of the intertwined relations between the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Economic Forum, and the Committee of 300. They have already divided the land masses and populations of the earth into ten domains intended to be under the control of the global elite.

When a ruined Apostate Protestant American Empire yields its kingdom, or sovereignty, to the healed seventh head of papal power, the “ten kings” receive authority to reign for “one hour”, or a very short time, with the end game scarlet-colored beast, and agree to yield their allegiance and sovereignty to the Apostate Global Empire under papal control.

“The church has joined hands with the world.” {CTr 328.6}. “The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin, and the church and the world will be in corrupt harmony.” {2SM 367.3}. “The man of sin has worked with a marvelous perseverance to exalt a spurious sabbath, and the disloyal Protestant world has wondered after the beast and has called obedience to the Sabbath instituted by Jehovah disloyalty to the laws of the nations. Kingdoms have confederated to sustain a false sabbath institution, which has not a word of authority in the oracles of God.” {CTr 328.4}.

“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.” {Mar 187.6}. “By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation [the United States] 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 threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.” {Mar 190.2}

National apostasy leads to national ruin

Apostasy leads to ruin. It must bring the judgments of God on the apostate individual or dominion. The great apostate is Satan. His ruin will come at the end of the seventh millennium in the final lake of fire (Rev 20:14-15). All individual apostasy leads to the same end. National apostasy leads to national ruin. A nation that establishes laws that harden against and apostatize from biblical truth will bring God's wrath upon that nation. God must withdraw His protection, thereby allowing that nation to be assaulted by satanic forces to which it has given its allegiance. The same must happen at the end of time globally, as universal apostasy will bring universal ruin. This will occur at the end of time as Satan's confederated forces array themselves against God's pure remnant Sabbath-keeping Church. When God in His wrath withdraws His protection, Satan is given full sway over his subjects and brings them to utter ruin.

With the enactment of a National Sunday Law, the Republic of America will effectively have become an American Empire, having repudiated its Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and Bill of Rights. Having turned its back on God, this once blessed nation in full apostasy must speedily end in national ruin. "When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land, and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin." {7BC 977 (1888)} {LDE 133.5}. "This nation will yet be humbled into the dust." {1T 259.1}

John and Paul both caution about God's wrath at the end of time:

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and **he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**

Rom 1:18 For the **wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;**

Rom 2:5 But after thy **hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath** and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Eph 5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of **these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.**

John further describes the wrath of God exemplified in the seven last plagues at the end of time:

Rev 5:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the **seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.**

John clarifies the sobering condition of those at the end of time that bring on themselves God's wrath when they choose to worship according to Satan's false Sabbath, Sunday, thereby receiving the "mark of the beast," and spurn God's true Seventh-day Sabbath as His ordained day of worship. In receiving this papal mark of ecclesiastic authority over God's Word, they have demonstrated their disobedience to the Creator, and fostered a character of ungodliness and unrighteousness and a hardened and impenitent heart.

Rev 14:9-10

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and **receive his mark** in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 **The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God**, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

The end game of the scarlet-colored beast – the church state union of an apostate global empire

Once the papacy has orchestrated the decimation of the American Empire, Rome's end game bid for world dominion will emerge. In service to her satanic master, global control has always been the papacy's goal. The healed seventh head of *papal power* unites the people of the world "to oppose God in the person of His witnesses." {Mar 187.2}. The question arises: "**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.**" {7BC 983.5} {Mar 187.3}. The scarlet-colored beast, representing the church-state union of the apostate Protestant American Empire, having been decimated by national apostasy, yields its

sovereignty, or kingdom, to the healed papal power. Emergent is the end game phase of the scarlet-colored beast – the global union of church and state. The church, as Apostate Protestants worldwide, unifies with the state, as global elite leadership in alignment with the papal agenda of world dominion. The Roman papacy sits atop this end game beast, having assimilated the scarlet-colored beast of a ruined America, and emerged as a scarlet-colored beast representing a church-state union of an Apostate Global Empire.

“*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.” {3SM 392.4}. *“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.”* {3SM 392.5}

Universal apostasy leads to universal ruin

“Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States. Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon our people in all parts of the world.” 6T 395 (1900) {LDE 135.3}. Just as the nation of America apostatized with the passage of a National Sunday Law, so do the nations of the world, confederating in a global empire also apostatize. Satan's confederation of forces enacts a law of global scope, a Universal Sunday Law. And as surely as national apostasy led to national ruin so, too, does universal apostasy lead to universal ruin.

Babylon is fallen, is fallen – all nations have drunk

“Babylon is fallen, . . . because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” When she has made all nations do this, then the work of apostasy will have “reached its culmination.” “The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work “with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;” and they that “received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,” will be left to receive “strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11. Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete.” {FLB 285.3}

“Babylon is fallen, is fallen.” Babylon is said to be fallen when the Apostate Protestant world brings about the legal enactment of a law coercing Sunday observance. The first fall of Babylon occurs in America, the second, globally. It is not until this global enforcement that Babylon is fully fallen and Apostate Protestantism is committed to their legally bound action. It is then that the judgments of God befall the world, when everyone has determined whom they will follow – God and His Law, or the Usurper through his papal agency exalting man and his traditions over God and His Law.

The dragon, the beast, and the false prophet

Satan's forces confederate and array themselves to destroy God's remnant. Satan's three forces of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet of Rev 16:13, prepare to attack God's sealed people, who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus. The “dragon” as civil powers aligned with the will of the papacy, the “beast” as the papacy, the mother of harlots, and the Universal Catholic Church, and the “false prophet” as the Apostate Protestant churches, the daughters of the harlot, not only in America, but worldwide, gather the rest of the world, rulers and subjects, for this final showdown. Their sole intention, under the ultimate instigation and sanction of Satan himself, is to finally destroy God's people, so that Satan will no longer have opposition to his absolute despotic tyrannical control of humanity. His

true aim, in fact, is the destruction of all who yield their allegiance to him. Satan is, as he has been since iniquity was found in him, the destroyer, a murderer and a liar from the beginning.

17:14 *These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him [are] called, and chosen, and faithful.*

The battle of Armageddon will be fought, and Satan will array his forces against God and Christ in the form of His final witnesses, the 144,000. These are they who are “called, and chosen, and faithful.” And they endure to the end. Their God delivers them, “every one that shall be found written in the book.” (Dan 12:1).

“The return of Christ to our world will not be long delayed. Let this be the keynote of every message.” {6T 406.1}. “The battle of Armageddon is soon to be fought. He on whose vesture is written the name, King of kings, and Lord of lords, is soon to lead forth the armies of heaven.” {6T 406.3} “It is as true now as when Christ was upon the earth, that every inroad made by the gospel upon the enemy’s dominion is met by fierce opposition from his vast armies. The conflict that is right upon us will be the most terrible ever witnessed. But though Satan is represented as being as strong as the strong man armed, his overthrow will be complete, and everyone who unites with him in choosing apostasy rather than loyalty will perish with him.” {6T 407.3}

Satan arrays his army against the Lamb of God and His army. The confederated forces of Satan, the world in apostasy and rebellion against God, prepare for the annihilation of God’s remaining people, the 144,000. Yet, God’s army, like Christ’s first disciples, follow Him, “as soldiers follow their commander, fighting the good fight of faith. “And they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful.” {5T 223.1}. Their weapons are “not carnal, but mighty through God.” (2 Cor 10:4). The entire apostate global empire under papal dominion, ruled with the unbridled tyranny of Satan, meets its inevitable end. “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.” (2 Thes 2:8). Christ, our Lord of lords and King of kings, delivers His people. “This [is] our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this [is] the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” (Isa 25:9)

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

This is a reference clarifying the “many waters” upon which the great whore of Rev 17:1 sits, indicating that at the end of time the papacy will seek control of the entire global population.

17:16 *And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.*

Here the angel summarizes the end of the papacy, further described in Rev 18:5-19; 19:19-21. The ten kings, once aligned with the papacy and her agenda for world dominion, see, too late, that they have been deceived. Where they once agreed to yield their kingdom, their sovereignty, to the papacy they realize, with the coming of Christ and the deliverance of God’s true witnesses, the truth of their plight. Once objects of execration, worthy only of annihilation, God’s faithful remnant see evidences of Christ’s second coming, and their faces light up with the glory of God. The apostate world now knows it is lost. With wailing unspeakable, they turn on those who deceived them, and destroy them with the ferocity of demons. The last plague falls, the earth is decimated, all who are not resurrected and translated are destroyed, to await the second resurrection of the wicked after the millennium. (Rev 20:7-15). Satan and his demonic angels will be bound to this desolate planet, to contemplate the effects of sin and its eternal consequences, as the second death to all who do not believe and receive the merits of Jesus, our Sacrifice and Substitute, our Redeemer and Savior. (Rev 20:1-3, 10, 14).

17:17 *For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.*

The Lord's providences prevail over man's inventions and plans. Referring to the prophetic timeline of the succession of nations, EG White comments:

These predictions of the Infinite One, recorded on the prophetic page and traced on the pages of history, were given to demonstrate that God is the ruling power in the affairs of this world. He changes the times and the seasons, he removes kings and sets up kings, to fulfil his own purpose. {YI September 29, 1903, par. 3}

Here is God's sovereignty manifest:

Isaiah 55:8-11

8 For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

11 So shall **my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper [in the thing] whereto I sent it.**

God's intention will be fulfilled in the hearts of man. It is God's desire that no one should perish, but all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). But He cannot force His will. He only stands at the door of our heart and knocks, and with utmost respect for our free will, He patiently waits for our response. We either receive Him into our heart and live, or reject Him and perish, eternally.

17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Here is further verification of the global influence of the woman that sits on this scarlet-colored beast. She, as the papacy, represents "that great city," Rome, which "reigns over the kings of the earth" at the end of this earth's sinful history. Yet she will come to her end.

The woman (Babylon) of Revelation 17 is described as "arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness:...and upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots." Says the prophet: "I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus." **Babylon is further declared to be "that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth."** Revelation 17:4-6, 18. The power that for so many centuries maintained despotic sway over the monarchs of Christendom is **Rome**. The purple and scarlet color, the gold and precious stones and pearls, vividly picture the magnificence and more than kingly pomp affected by the **haughty see of Rome**. And no other power could be so truly declared "drunken with the blood of the saints" as that church which has so cruelly persecuted the followers of Christ. Babylon is also charged with the sin of unlawful connection with "the kings of the earth." It was by departure from the Lord, and alliance with the heathen, that the Jewish church became a harlot; and Rome, corrupting herself in like manner by seeking the support of worldly powers, receives a like condemnation. {GC 382.2}

EVALUATION OF DIFFERING HISTORICAL VIEWS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF PRINCIPLE ISSUES REGARDING THE SCARLET-COLORED BEAST, ITS 7 HEADS, 7 MOUNTAINS, 10 HORNS, AND THE WOMAN

Respectfully submitted by Dr. James Z. Said
First presented at the NPUC Conference - December 2012

A summary review of the scarlet-colored beast that was, and is not, and yet is – its 7 heads as 7 kings and 7 mountains, its 10 horns, and the woman who sits upon it – with critical emphasis as to the identity of the 7 heads

Principle Focus of this monograph:

The intention of this monograph is to contrast two views of the seven heads as “7 kings” of the scarlet-colored beast of Rev 17:3.

The view that is herein proposed is that the 7 heads are the 7 legally authorized ruling systems of ancient Rome, which, at the end of time, are repeated in the United States of America, as Rome’s final phase of seeking dominion over a global empire.

The alternate view contends that the 7 heads are Satan’s 7 kingdoms, monarchies, or world powers that, throughout the ages, have oppressed God’s people. This view will be discussed, particularly as to its lesser likelihood of being the preferred interpretation.

THE PROPOSED VIEW

The fourth beast of Daniel’s vision – Rome

Reference Text: The beast of Dan 7:7,8,20 is seen as having 10 horns, with no mention of heads.

Proposed Meaning: This is because Daniel is only shown the papal phase of Rome emergent at the time of the 10 monarchies, established as a legal church-state union in 538 immediately after three nations were “plucked up by the roots”, as Arian nations adherent to religious liberty, anathema to the satanic papal agenda of global civil and religious hegemony or control.

The three 7-headed 10-horned figures of Revelation all refer to Rome through three successive eras of its existence

Referenced Text: Rev 12:3; 13:1; 17:3 all referencing a 7-headed 10-horned creature.

Proposed Meaning: By virtue of all three having 10 horns, these all refer to Rome, or the fourth beast, which is the only beast to have demonstrated this anatomy of ten horns in Daniel 7.

The great red dragon – Pagan Rome

Reference Text: Rev 12:3 as the great red dragon.

Proposed Meaning: This figure is not called a “beast”. According to EG White, the dragon, referenced in Rev 12:4, primarily represents Satan, and secondarily represents Pagan Rome.

*The line of prophecy in which these symbols are found begins with Revelation 12, with the dragon that sought to destroy Christ at His birth. The dragon is said to be **Satan** (Revelation 12:9); he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Saviour to death. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the first centuries of the Christian Era was the Roman Empire, in which paganism was the prevailing religion. Thus while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of **pagan Rome**. {GC 438.2}*

The great red dragon can therefore be construed as representing the church-state union between an apostate church (Apostate Israel) and Satan’s civil agency of pagan Rome (as a pagan Roman Empire) at the time of Jesus. The union of church and state, the attempted fusion of clay and iron (Dan 2:41-43), was and continues to be Satan’s strategy in his attempt to obliterate both Christ’s Outer Court earthly

ministry and His pure Apostolic Church, and to control the conscience and daily lives of humanity as man's god and man's king.

The sea beast – Papal Rome

Reference Text: Rev 13:1 as the “sea beast”, also referred to as the “leopard-like beast”.

Proposed Meaning: This “beast”, according to EG White, represents the papacy.

*In chapter 13 (verses 1-10) is described another beast, "like unto a leopard," to which the dragon gave "his power, and his seat, and great authority." This symbol, as most Protestants have believed, represents the **papacy**, which succeeded to the power and seat and authority once held by the ancient Roman empire. Of the leopardlike beast it is declared: "There was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies. . . . And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." This prophecy, which is nearly identical with the description of the little horn of Daniel 7, unquestionably points to the **papacy**.*

Here we encounter a second unholy amalgamation of church and state between an Apostate Roman Catholic Church and a Catholicized but still essentially pagan Roman Empire. It was Satan's aim to obfuscate mankind from Christ's Holy Place “daily” ministry and annihilate the pure Church in the Wilderness.

The image beast with lamblike horns – the United States in apostasy

Reference Text: Rev 13:11 is the next “beast” presented in this lineage of figures.

Proposed Meaning: According to EG White, this beast represents the United States.

*I saw all that "would not receive the mark of the Beast, and of his Image, in their foreheads or in their hands," could not buy or sell. [Revelation 13:15-17.] I saw that the number (666) of the **Image Beast** was made up; [Revelation 13:18.] and that it was the Beast that changed the Sabbath, and the **Image Beast** had followed on after, and kept the Pope's, and not God's Sabbath. And all we were required to do, was to give up God's Sabbath, and keep the Pope's, and then we should have the mark of the Beast, and of his image. {WLF 19.1} {Broadside3, April 7, 1847 par. 5}*

*"And he had two horns like a lamb." The lamblike horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness, fitly representing the character of **the United States** when presented to the prophet as "coming up" in 1798. ... REPUBLICANISM and Protestantism became the fundamental principles of the nation. These principles are the secret of its power and prosperity. {GC 441.1}*

But the beast with lamblike horns "spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed; . . . 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." Revelation 13:11-14. {GC 441.2}

*"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. {GC 442.3}*

The earth beast of the United States featured Satan's end time civil body that would “make an image to the (papal) beast” by again legislating coercive false worship by enacting a National Sunday Law, as did the “first beast” of the papacy in the 6th century. This was the “state” component of the third and final church-state union.

The scarlet-colored beast – the revived church-state union

Reference Text: Rev 17:3 is the next “beast” in this lineage, named the “scarlet-colored beast”. It is only described after Rev 15 & 16, which delineate the 7 last plagues, or judgments that befall the earth and its impenitent inhabitants, through which God’s final remnant, the 144,000, endure.

Proposed Meaning: The angel says that he will show the judgment of the “great whore”, and tell of the mystery of the same personage, or woman, and the beast upon which she sits, as the scarlet-colored beast having 7 heads and 10 horns. So the rest of Rev 17 reference to “beast” only refers to this particular form of beast, scarlet in color, and not to any other beast. No allusion is made to changing to another beast in this “show” and “tell” discussion.

This last beast (scarlet) is still “Rome”. It still has 10 horns, referring to Dan 7:7. It is “Rome” at the end of time when “Rome” is facing its final judgment with the 2nd Coming of Christ. While papal power may well be centered in the Roman Vatican, the last phase of this “fourth kingdom” (Dan 7:23) encompasses America in the form of Apostate Protestantism. The life of this scarlet-colored beast will be given expression after a National Sunday Law, when the church-state union will again be legally reinstated, this time in the America.

To call the scarlet-colored beast “Satan” is to acknowledge its essence, but not its end time agency. Spirit of Prophecy acknowledges the great red dragon of Rev 12:3 to be primarily Satan, and secondarily Satan’s agency of pagan Rome, used of Satan to attempt to kill Christ. Similarly, the “sea” beast of Rev 13:1 is also an agency of Satan, as papal Rome, used of Satan to separate and mislead the minds and hearts of men from God’s Word and Christ’s intercessory ministry in the Holy Place, and usurp God’s Word with the traditions of men. Finally, the scarlet-colored beast of Rev 17:3, the final church-state union, as “Revived” Papal Rome, is used of Satan to confederate all apostate churches, the kings of the earth, and all complicit unrepentant humanity, to destroy Christ in the person of His true witnesses, the faithful remnant. To maintain that the three seven-headed ten-horned creatures are Satan is to oversimplify the dynamics through which Satan manifests his desire for global dominion. This “Satan as scarlet-colored beast” view obscures the necessary details we require at this period of the end of earth’s history to see Christ’s prophetic accuracy and, therefore, believe when it comes to pass. The congruent and accurate details of the prophetic picture lend credibility and strength to our witness as we are each used of the Lord to call God’s people out of a fallen Babylon.

*By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation [the United States] 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 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. {Mar 190.2}*

*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**. . . . {Mar 190.3}*

***Papists, Protestants**, and worldling 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. {Mar 190.4}*

*When our nation [the United States] shall so abjure the principles of its government as to enact a Sunday law, **Protestantism will in this act join hands with popery**; it will be nothing else than **giving life to the tyranny** which has long been eagerly watching its opportunity to spring again into **active despotism**. {Mar 190.5}*

*When **our nation** shall so abjure the principles of its government as to enact a **Sunday law**, **Protestantism will in this act join hands with popery**.--5T 712 (1889). {LDE 128.2}*

***Protestants will throw their whole influence and strength on the side of the papacy**. By a **national act enforcing the false sabbath** they will give life and vigor to the corrupt faith of **Rome**, reviving her tyranny and oppression of conscience.--Mar 179 (1893). {LDE 128.3}*

*The persecutions of Protestants by Romanism, by which the religion of Jesus Christ was almost annihilated, will be more than rivaled when **Protestantism and popery are combined**. {Mar 194.3}*

*The commandment-keeping people of God ere long will be placed in a most trying position; but all those who have walked in the light, and diffused the light, will realize that God interposes in their behalf. When everything looks most forbidding, then the Lord will reveal His power to His faithful ones. When the nation for which God has worked in such a marvelous manner, and over which He has spread the shield of Omnipotence, **abandons Protestant principles, and through its legislature gives countenance and support to Romanism in limiting religious liberty**, then God will work in His own power for His people that are true. The **tyranny of Rome will be exercised**, but Christ is our refuge. {Mar 194.4}*

*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**. {Mar 194.5}*

*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**. {Mar 194.6}*

It is only at the end of time that Babylon will have completely fallen, not just in America ("Babylon is fallen"), but globally ("is fallen").

"Babylon is fallen, . . . because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." **When she has made all nations do this, then the work of apostasy will have "reached its culmination."** "The Bible declares that **before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work "with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;"** and they that "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved," will be left to receive "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11. **Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete.**" {7BC 983.5}

Daniel's One Headed Ten Horned Beast contrasted with Revelation's Seven Headed Ten Horned Creature

It is of note that Daniel was shown the ten horns in the head of the fourth beast (Dan 7:20). John was shown the same ten horns on a Roman creature, but was given additional revelation of seven heads, not just one. John's description of the heads in Rev 17:10 depicted seven Roman governing structures from Rome's inception as a Republic, continuing on as an Empire, then as Papal Rome, and finally as Revived Papal Rome before it comes to its end at Christ's second coming. The first five heads pertained to the five branches of government in the Roman Republic (1. executive, 2. legislative, 3. judicial, 4. military, 5. administrative-financial). These five "heads" of Roman government fell simultaneously with the collapse of the Republic in 27 BC ("five are fallen"). The sixth "head" was the ruling structure of Rome's next governing system as an empire. The sixth head was imperial at the time of John's writing ("one is"). The seventh and final "head" was the ruling system of Rome's third governing structure of Papal Rome. This seventh head was the head of papal power that from John's time was yet to come and would reign as a persecutory power for 1260 prophetic years, a relatively short time in God's calendar ("the other is not yet come, and when he comes, he must continue for a short time"). The ten horns, according to Rev 13:1, were emphasized by its crowns signifying the ruling capacity of the ten monarchies of Western Europe and their influence on the papacy's rise to power. So, Daniel was given a vision of a single head of Roman power, which was in John's vision the seventh head of papal power, upon which Daniel saw all

ten horns. This is consistent with Daniel's desire to know the character of the little horn, or papal system of the dreadful and terrible beast of Rome.

The ten kings – global elite leadership in allegiance with papal power and seeking world dominion

Reference Text: Rev 17:12,13,17 – the ten kings, initially having no kingdom as yet, receive power as kings one hour with the beast; have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast; and agree to give their kingdom unto the beast.

Proposed Meaning: EG White comments with the following prophetic insight:

*Revelation 17:12, 13 Yet under **one head--the papal power**--the people will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses. {Mar 187.2}*

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. (Letter 232, 1899). {7BC 983.5} {Mar 187.3}

*Revelation 17:13, 14 (chs. 13:11-17; 16:13-16). A Confederacy of Satan's Forces.--[Revelation 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. {7BC 983.6} {3SM 392.4} {Mar 187.4}***

*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. {MS 24, 1891} {7BC 983.7} {3SM 392.5} {Mar 187.5}*

*Church and the World in Corrupt Harmony. --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. {7BC 975.9}***

*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** (GCB April 13, 1891). {7BC 975.10}*

*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.** {GC 50.1}*

***Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States.** Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon our people in **all parts of the world.** {6T 395.1}*

There is one head – the head of papal power – to whom an apostate Protestant America gives its kingdom. The enactment of a National Sunday Law in effect yields sovereignty of this country to the woman riding upon the scarlet-colored beast – the papacy, which is directing the scarlet-colored beast through one of its heads. That head is the one which is healed of its deadly wound. It is the seventh head of the scarlet-colored beast. It is the head of papal power.

Recap:

1. The first 7-headed 10-horned figure is a **great red dragon** representing Satan in his agency of pagan imperial Rome. The dragon represents civil authority, and is seen in this instance as the pagan imperial hierarchy – the sixth head. The great red dragon is the unholy but legally established church-state union of an Apostate Israel and a Pagan Roman Empire intended to crucify Christ as our Messiah and destroy the Apostolic Church.
2. The second 7-headed 10-horned figure is the **sea beast** representing the papacy as it rose to the legally established position of head of all churches of the entire Roman empire, and corrector of heretics. Church canon was raised to the level of civil law in the Justinian Law Code. This sea beast, representing the legally established church-state union between an Apostate Roman Catholic Church and a Catholicized but still pagan Roman Empire. This head received its deadly wound when in 1798 Rome by popular vote was legally declared a Republic, and 1260 years of legally established papal oppression came to an official end.
3. The **lamb-like beast** of the United States, “spake like a dragon” in the action of legislating a National Sunday Law (NSL), an “image” or equivalent action of coercive false worship as the “first beast” of Papal Rome. It is this legal act that begins progressive oppression throughout Revelation 13, verses 11-17. This is the “state” action of the church-state union legally re-established with the National Sunday Law. In order to legislate such a coercive law contrary to religious freedom, the First Constitutional Amendment must be repudiated. In fact, this law comes into effect only after the Constitution is fully repudiated, and America no longer functions as a Republic, but rather as an Empire. It is in the American imperial phase that a Sunday Law is passed.

This is the repetition of history as seen in ancient Rome in its transition from a Republic to an Empire in 27 BC. It was in its imperial state that Rome first enacted a “Sunday Law”, first under a pagan civil guise on 3/7/321 under Roman Emperor Constantine I, then in the form of a religious canon (29) enacted by the Roman Catholic Church during the Council of Laodicea in 364 as the first anti-sabbath law. And it was during the imperial court of Justinian I in 538 that a law coercing papal dogma, inclusive of Sunday worship and exclusive of Seventh-day Sabbath worship, was enacted that named the papacy as corrector of heretics and head of all churches, with canon law now embodied in civil law. The dragon was represented by Satan’s civil agency of the Eastern Roman Emperor and the 10 horns of the monarchs that exalted the papacy to its controlling position over not only church, but also state (Rev 13:1-2). The 10 European monarchies, inclusive of the 3 “Arian” Gothic monarchies that were “plucked up,” were all complicit with papal control, either by abnegation of power or by conquest. The 3 “Arian” Gothic monarchies each espoused religious liberty, which stood in the way of papal control over the conscience of mankind throughout the Roman Empire. The papacy, therefore, leagued with civil forces to destroy those monarchies and make their law code of no effect, other than to enable the papal hierarchy to have control over the civil affairs of those regions, preparatory to the Justinian Law Code bringing the entirety of the Roman Empire under church control.

The United States as the lamb-like beast speaking as a dragon represents the repetition of ancient Roman history of an imperial government legislating a law controlling freedom of conscience. Like the ancient great red dragon of imperial pagan Rome, the United States as an Empire is moved by a power from beneath – that is, Satan.

4. The **scarlet-colored beast** is an apostate Protestant American Empire, representing the “church” of the church-state union. This beast is full of names of blasphemy, like her “mother”, the sea beast, where blasphemy was found upon the heads – drawing primary attention to the ecclesiastic nature of the seventh head of papal power. Apostate Protestant America as an apostate Empire, in passing a National Sunday Law, effectively yields its kingdom, or its sovereignty, to the healed seventh head of papal power. The scarlet-colored beast, representing the church-state union of Apostate Protestantism and a pagan American Empire, is choreographed by the woman sitting upon it to yield its sovereignty. The papacy, sitting upon this scarlet beast, directs its heads according to papal will. The daughters (Apostate Protestant churches) of this mother harlot do the harlot’s bidding by exerting political pressure on the legislators of the American imperial state to enact a law giving homage to the papacy through

Sunday enforcement. The ultimate papal agenda is for world dominion, doing the bidding of her master, Satan, who wants to be man's king by exalting his "throne above the stars of God" and man's god by sitting "on the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north." Satan's entirely selfish ambition, as seen in his papal agent, is to be exalted over men and angels, and establish sovereignty over the entire world as its king and its god.

5. The **ten horns**, or ten kings, represent a consortium of global elite leadership that are first seen to have no kingdom as yet, but receive power as kings one hour with the beast, but then agree to give their kingdom to the beast, at least until the "words of God shall be fulfilled" (Rev17:17). These ten "kings" or global elite leadership at the end of time are already in alignment with the papal satanic agenda for world dominion. When the Apostate Protestant American Empire passes its National Sunday Law, thereby giving its kingdom to papal power of the healed seventh head, the global elite leadership receives authority as "kings" for "one hour" or a short time with the beast.

The beast at this time is no longer a church-state union confined to an apostate Protestant American Empire, but has now expanded to become a global church-state empire, as a confederacy of all of Satan's forces in corrupt harmony – the civil powers (ten kings) [**the dragon**] aligned with the papacy, the entire Roman Catholic Church and papal hierarchy [**the beast**], and professed Protestantism worldwide [**the false prophet**]. As seen in Rev 16:13,14, these form a consortium that goes into all the world to gather "the kings of the earth and of the whole world" into **one universal confederacy of Satan's forces**. All the corrupt powers that have apostatized are gathered against God's people. This is how the ten kings receive power as kings with the beast, now of global scope. And in service of papal supremacy universally, the ten kings yield their power and strength, as well as the global kingdom, to this universal church-state empire under papal control. This is as it was in ancient Rome, and in a fallen America.

All that remains is a final legislative act – the passage of a Universal Sunday Law. Manifesting the final sequence of Satan's agenda, still directed by the papacy through the healed seventh head of papal power, the intention is, as it was all along, to destroy the remnant of God's people. They, who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus, are Satan's central object of wrath, and become the hunted by the apostate world.

The scarlet-colored beast that was, and is not, and yet is – three phases of the church-state union and persecutory power over God's pure Commandment keeping church – its life, death, and resurrection

Reference Text: Rev 17:8,11 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

Proposed Meaning: The scarlet-colored beast is the revived sea beast of Rev 13:1. The sea beast was the church-state union of the papacy in illicit "fornication" with earthy rulers in the form of monarchs of newly forming European countries, and the emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire. This is the beast that "was" – a church-state union legally empowered to persecute God's people, as corrector of heretics and head of all churches. This particular head was the seventh of the seven heads as seen in all three seven-headed figures. The first figure was the great red dragon, representing the Roman era of Pagan Rome, at the time of the sixth head, representing the ruling authority of emperors. This was the first church-state union of an Apostate Israel and a Pagan Imperial Rome. The second figure of the sea beast, representing Papal Rome and the second church-state union of an Apostate Catholic Church and a Pagan Catholicized Roman Empire, which was established in 538 when the Bishop of Rome was legally sanctioned to correct heretics, lead all churches of the empire, and directly affect civil affairs since canon law was made civil law. The seventh head represented the ruling authority of this Roman era, as the papacy and the papal hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church.

The sea beast, representing the church-state union of Papal Rome, came to life in 538, and was ruled principally by its seventh head of the papal hierarchy. Precisely 1260 years later, this seventh head received a deadly wound in 1798 when French General Berthier, under Napoleon I, issued a legal decree after popular vote, naming Rome a Republic, free of papal oppression, thereby nullifying the imperial decree of 538, which had legally begun papal oppression.

The scarlet-colored beast, the final of the three figures, is led by the healed seventh head. This healing occurs with the passage of the National Sunday Law in an apostate Protestant American Empire at the time when the Constitution is fully repudiated. The time between the deadly wound being inflicted and the wound being healed is the time of “is not” of the beast of Rev 17. This is the history leading up to the last era of Rome, depicted in the scarlet-colored beast. This third and final figure represents the third church-state union, headed by papal power, the healed seventh head. It is the amalgamized union of Apostate Protestantism, the daughters of the harlot doing the papacy’s bidding, and a pagan American Empire. The scarlet-colored beast is alive from the passage of the NSL until the 2nd Coming of Christ. This spans the time when the beast “yet is”. It is during this era that the beast is said to ascend from the bottomless pit of American and global confusion, desolation, and fear. The scarlet-colored beast is said to be the “eighth”, and “of the seven” previous legally authorized ruling governments of the previous Roman eras. Here, the final church-state union coalesces the Protestant world with papal power and the global elite leadership desiring world dominion. This final legally authorized ruling coalition, with the papacy sitting supremely, ultimately combines all of Satan’s confederated forces, unified in their intent to completely destroy God’s final remnant commandment keeping people, His true witnesses.

The final destiny of the “eighth” is perdition – as the beast of the papacy and the false prophet of apostate Protestantism are cast alive into the lake of fire (Rev 19:20; 20:10). Their names will not have been written in the Lamb’s book of life. They have disqualified themselves from eternal salvation in Christ, and instead have aligned with satanic forces being “bundled” for the fire of eternal death.

So the **Roman eras** are as follows:

1. Roman Republic (509 BC – 27 BC)
2. Roman Empire
 - a. Western (27 BC – 476AD) – First legally established church-state union at the time of Christ’s First Advent leading to His crucifixion.
 - b. Eastern (331 AD – 1453 AD)
 - c. Divided Western into 10 Monarchies (356 AD ~ 483 AD)
3. Papal Rome (538 AD – 1798 AD) – Second legally established church-state union, ending after 1260 years with its legal abolishment.
4. Revived Papal Rome as an Apostate Protestant American/Global Empire (NSL – 2nd Coming) – Third, or revived, legally established church-state union, ending with Christ’s Second Coming.

The seven heads as seven kings of the scarlet-colored beast – seven legally authorized ruling systems of Rome

Reference Text: Rev 7:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, [and] the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

Proposed View

Proposed Meaning: The seven heads, as seven kings, carry the legal authority to rule or govern Rome in its four successive eras, commencing from Rome as a Republic in 509 BC. As a Republic, Rome was legally governed by five distinct and often contemporaneously ruling entities. **The four Roman eras, with their seven legally authorized ruling systems, or “heads,” can be seen as follows:**

- (1st era) Roman Republic (509-27 BC)

1. Executive Branch
 2. Legislative Branch
 3. Judicial Branch
 4. Administrative/Financial Branch
 5. Military Branch
- **(2nd era) Roman Empire** (Western: 27 BC-476 AD; Eastern 330-1453 AD)
 6. Emperors
 - **(3rd era) Papal Rome**
 7. Popes
 - **(4th era) Revived Papal Rome**
 8. Pope directing an Apostate Protestant American Empire, then an Apostate Global Empire with the Global Power Elite

The Roman Republic (509 – 27 BC) – the first five Roman “heads”

As a Republic, Rome was autonomous, and was ruled by five branches of governance, each offering checks and balances necessary to prevent Rome from descending into its previous system of ruling kings which were both Roman and Etruscan. These five branches of the Roman Republic constituted the first “five heads” of the seven governing modes of Rome, and included:

Five (5) Branches of Government	Republic of Ancient Rome (Constitutional Republic)	
	Patricians (Wealthy Class; Founding Aristocracy)	Plebeians (Commoners; Emerging Aristocracy)
Executive (Supreme command; leads political direction of the Republic; protects Republic as Commander in Chief of Military)	Consuls/ Provincial Governors (Proconsuls & Propraetors)	Tribunes
Legislative (Lawmaking body; elects heads of state; votes on civil laws and military matters affecting the Republic)	Consuls/ Senate/ Assembly of the Curiae/ Assembly of the Centuries/ Assembly of the Tribes	Tribunes/ Assembly of the Tribes and its plebeian subgroup, Concilium Plebis
Judicial (Interprets laws; court of appeals; declares war)	Consuls/ Equestrians/ Praetors/ Assembly of the Centuries	Assembly of the Tribes
Administrative & Financial (Manages daily affairs of Republic life)	Consuls/ Censors/ Senate/ Praetors/ Curule Aediles/ Quaestors	Tribunes/ Plebeian Aediles
Military (Protects Republic from internal strife and external attack)	Consuls/ Praetors/ Dictators/ Generals	Military Tribunes/ Generals

1. **The Head of Executive Power of the Republic:** The Executive Branch – The wealthy founding families of the patrician aristocracy, which initially assumed leadership of the Republic, through the Senate, elected two co-rulers, as consuls, to a position of supreme command for one year, each having the principal position for one month alternating. The consular role was to protect the nation as commander in chief of the military, and to lead the political direction of the Republic by leading Senate meetings and introducing legislation for

popular vote. Later, the commoner class of plebians elected their representatives of tribunes, which after 257 BC had equivalent influence as the consuls over Roman affairs and politics.

2. **The Head of Legislative Power of the Republic:** The Legislative Branch – The patrician Senate acted as a check to the consular position, and the plebeian Assembly acted their part to check the power of the tribunes. Each had voting capacity to elect consuls and tribunes, respectively, and had a say in the affairs of Rome to engage in war and manage times of peace.
3. **The Head of Judicial Power of the Republic:** The Judicial Branch – The patrician Senate and Equestrian class, consuls and praetors, and the plebeian Assembly, were called upon to interpret laws, elect heads of state, and vote on civil matters affecting the Republic.
4. **The Head of Administration & Financial Power of the Republic:** The Administrative Branch – Patrician consuls, aediles and censors, and plebeian tribunes managed the daily affairs of Republic life.
5. **The Head of Military Power of the Republic:** The Military Branch – the Senate appointed a dictator for a 6-month term of office to deal with national security from incursions along Rome's borders. The role of preserving national security could also be filled by consuls, praetors, tribunes and generals.

It is of note that the **United States Constitutional Republic has the same 5 systems of governance.**

Branch of Government	Ancient Republic of Rome				Republic of the United States of America	
	Constitutional Republic		Provincial		Federal	State
	Patricians	Plebeians	Patricians	Plebeians		
Executive	Consuls	Tribunes	Governors		President/VP	Governors
Legislative	Senate	Assembly			Congress	State Congress
Judicial	Senate/Equestrians	Assembly			Supreme Court/ Federal Judges	State Supreme Court/ State Judges
Administrative & Financial	Consuls	Tribunes	Aediles		Cabinet/ Bureaucracy	Directors of State Agencies
Military	Consuls/ Dictators/ Generals	Military Tribunes/ Generals			President/ Generals/ Admirals/ Intelligence Community	State Police/ National Guard

Five (5) Branches of Government	Republic of Ancient Rome		Republic of the United States of America
	Constitutional Republic Provinces		Federal State
	Patricians (Wealthy Class; Founding Aristocracy)	Plebeians (Commoners; Emerging Aristocracy)	
Executive (Supreme command; leads political direction of the Republic; protects Republic as	Consuls Provincial Governors	Tribunes	President/ VP State Governors

Commander in Chief of Military)			
Legislative (Lawmaking body)	Consuls/ Senate	Tribunes/ Assembly	Federal Congress (Senate/ House of Representatives) • State Congresses
Judicial (Interprets laws; votes for heads of state and on civil matters affecting the Republic)	Senate/Equestrians	Assembly	Federal Supreme Court/ Judges • State Supreme Courts
Administrative & Financial (Manages daily affairs of Republic life)	Consuls/ Aediles/ Censors	Tribunes	President's Cabinet/ Federal Administrative Bureaucracies • State Administrative Bureaucracies
Military (Protects Republic from internal strife and external attack)	Consuls/ Dictators/ Generals	Military Tribunes/ Generals	President/ Joint Chiefs of Staff/ Intelligence Community • Governors/ National Guard/ State Police

- **(1st era) Roman Republic**

1. **The Head of Executive Power of the Republic:** The Executive Branch – The wealthy founding families of the patrician aristocracy, which initially assumed leadership of the Republic, through the Senate, elected two co-rulers, as consuls, to a position of supreme command for one year, each having the principal position for one month alternating. The consular role was to protect the nation as commander in chief of the military, and to lead the political direction of the Republic by leading Senate meetings and introducing legislation for popular vote. Later, the commoner class of plebians elected their representatives of tribunes, which after 257 BC had equivalent influence as the consuls over Roman affairs and politics.
2. **The Head of Legislative Power of the Republic:** The Legislative Branch – The patrician Senate acted as a check to the consular position, and the plebeian Assembly acted their part to check the power of the tribunes. Each had voting capacity to elect consuls and tribunes, respectively, and had a say in the affairs of Rome to engage in war and manage times of peace.
3. **The Head of Judicial Power of the Republic:** The Judicial Branch – The patrician Senate and Equestrian class, consuls and praetors, and the plebeian Assembly, were called upon to interpret laws, elect heads of state, and vote on civil matters affecting the Republic.
4. **The Head of Administration & Financial Power of the Republic:** The Administrative Branch – Patrician consuls, aediles and censors, and plebeian tribunes managed the daily affairs of Republic life.
5. **The Head of Military Power of the Republic:** The Military Branch – the Senate appointed a dictator for a 6-month term of office to deal with national security from incursions along Rome's borders. The role of preserving national security could also be filled by consuls, praetors, tribunes and generals.

- **(2nd era) Roman Empire**

6. **Emperors** – (Western Roman Empire: 27 BC – 476 AD; [Divided Western Empire into 10 Monarchies: 356 AD ~ 483 AD]; Eastern Roman Empire: 331 AD – 1453 AD) controlled the military without the sanction of a governing body, eventually abolishing the need for any secondary governing body. It was imperial Rome that established Sunday Laws, first civil (under Constantine in 321 AD), then ecclesiastic (under Justinian I in 538 AD), demanding Sunday worship, and preventing worship on the true Sabbath. (Note: the distinguishing characteristic between the Roman Republic and Imperial Rome is that the emperor had exclusive control over the military without the say of the Senate.)

- **(3rd era) Papal Rome**

7. **Popes** – (538 AD – 1798 AD) a legal church-state union established in 538, unilaterally declaring that secular leaders are subject to the pope's spiritual authority, as stipulated in the "two swords" theory of Pope Gelasius I in 494 AD. In 1798, papal oppression was abolished when Rome was legally declared a Republic, under French General Berthier, who took Pope Pius VI captive.

[**The Two Swords** history and theory, in brief: In 494, Pope Gelasius I wrote to Emperor Anastasius declaring the theory of two swords, or two powers, governing the world, stating, "there are two... by which the world is chiefly ruled: the sacred authority of bishops and the royal power. Of those the responsibility of bishops is the more weighty insofar as they will answer also for the kings of men themselves at divine judgment." The popes did not claim to wield the temporal sword but to direct its proper use. This juridical understanding, where church governance was analogous to that exercised by temporal rulers, guided papal theory and practice in subsequent centuries. The two swords theory maintained that secular leaders were subject to the pope's spiritual authority.]

- **(4th era) Revived Papal Rome**

8. The Scarlet-colored Beast of an **Apostate Protestant American/Global Empire** – (NSL – 2nd Coming of Christ) the legally revived church-state union is the "eighth, and is of the seven," and is headed by the healed 7th head of papal power. Apostasy begins in America with the passage of a National Sunday Law, leading to its ruin as a sovereign nation as it yields to papal power, which itself is in league with the "ten kings" of the global elite leadership, who also yield their power, strength and kingdom to the end game confederation of a global empire, Satan's final assault on God's faithful remnant, also controlled by the healed 7th head of papal power.

Question: So why would the seven "heads" of ruling authorities of ancient Rome be so important to be depicted so centrally in Rev 17:9-11?

Answer: As with all other prophecies, they are intended as warnings for the end of time, and that we might believe, who are alive at that time. History will be repeated, and the structure and function of ancient Rome will be reenacted in America and the final global empire. The history and sequence of the seven "kings" or "heads" are repeated in America, as its ancient Roman counterpart also experienced before its fall as a republic, an empire, and a papal nation.

The repetition of history, from the ancient Roman Republic to its final era commencing with an Apostate America, is seen in the delineation of the seven heads in Rev 17:9-11. These **seven heads are repeated through four American eras, and are recognized as seven legally authorized ruling systems.** The 4th era assimilates a fallen America into a global empire, the culmination of the end time church-state union of the scarlet-colored beast, appreciated in its end stage as the "eighth" domain of authorized rule, "and is of the seven," but now worldwide.

- **(1st era) American Constitutional Republic (1787 – NSL)**

1. Executive Branch
2. Legislative Branch
3. Judicial Branch
4. Administrative/Financial Branch
5. Military Branch

- **(2nd era) American Empire** (legislates an NSL, first civil, as a day of economic rest, or as a “family day,” then ecclesiastic, demanding Sunday worship, and preventing worship on the true Seventh-day Sabbath) – governed by an “imperial” administration.

6. Imperial Rule – autonomously (without the say of the governed) controlling the military, even without legislative sanction.

- **(3rd era) Apostate Protestant American Empire** (post NSL) effectively yields its kingdom to papal power, governed by a healed papal head in league with the ten “kings” of the elite global leadership.

7. Papal Rule – Sunday Law resurrects the 7th head of papal power, and papacy, in combination with Apostate Protestantism, reinstates religious bigotry and oppression.

- **(4th era) Apostate Global Empire**, formed when a ruined Apostate Protestant American Empire confederates with the global elite leadership and “all the corrupt powers that have apostatized.” “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.” A global apostate empire of church and state, governed by the healed 7th head of papal power, will legislate a Universal Sunday Law. “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.”

8. Papal Rule with Global Power Elite – The final phase of the scarlet-colored beast is the church-state union of a global empire of Satan’s confederated forces. This scarlet-colored beast of global apostasy functions as the “eighth” authorized ruling system, like the previous seven, but finally worldwide in scope.

5 are fallen, one is, and the other, when he comes, must continue a short space

Reference Text: Rev 7:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, [and] the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

Proposed Meaning: In ancient Rome, the seven heads, as seven kings, held the legal authority to rule or govern Rome throughout its four eras of the Roman Republic, Roman Empire, Papal Rome, and revived Papal Rome. At the time John was given this vision, Rome was an Empire. The first five “heads” of the Republic had “fallen.” The Roman Empire often looked like the Republic, but the power structure of the Empire was concentrated into the position of the emperor. The sixth “head” of the emperor was the head that “is” at the time of John’s vision. The seventh “head” of the papacy would yet emerge, and when it did, it would continue only a “short space.” The church-state union of the papacy with the Roman Empire legally emerged in 538 and continued 1260 years, until its deadly wound in 1798. The term “short space” is equivalent to the “short time” of Rev 12:12, referring to the duration of the devil’s attack on “the inhabitants of the earth”, from Christ’s crucifixion to His 2nd Coming. This span of 2000 years, referred to as “short”, would be equivalent to the “short” duration of the papal 1260 years. To the Lord, 1000 years is as one day (2 Peter 3:8), so as far as the Lord is concerned, it’s a short time.

Recognizing that the typology of prophecy is intended to point to the events that will take place at the time of the end, the same progression as seen historically in ancient Rome will be repeated in modern day America. For the United States to legislate a National Sunday Law, the Constitution must be repudiated, and the Republic of America can be said to have “fallen”. The American Republic’s first five “heads”, like the first five of the ancient Roman Republic, will be effective only to the extent that they uphold the imperial directive to coerce worship. The imperial phase that existed at the time of John, will again be repeated in an emergent American Empire. This repeated imperial state will be the civil agency, or the

“dragon”, that will yield to the political pressure for Sunday legislation brought to bear by the Apostate Protestant American churches, who themselves are acting under the direction of their mother, the papacy. Protestantism will have yielded the national sovereignty of the American Empire to the final ruling authority of papal power, or the revived seventh “head,” which will continue only a short time until Christ’s soon 2nd Coming. The church-state union will have been resurrected, or legally re-established for its third and final time.

The last phase of the scarlet-colored beast, the church-state union of an Apostate Protestant Empire, will be worldwide in scope. National apostasy of America will speedily end in national ruin. The “ten kings” of the global elite leadership league with the seventh head of papal power for the mutual purpose of world dominion, with the papacy as head. This is a repetition of the “Two Swords” papal directive, declaring that secular leaders are subject to the pope’s spiritual authority. A confederacy of all of Satan’s forces form an apostate global empire and coalesce under this final union to generate a Universal Sunday Law. It is then that the entire world will be in opposition to God in the form of His remnant faithful.

In the global war waged against “the Lamb”, the last day battle of Armageddon is fought. The great whore, the mother of harlots, the papacy, is at last unmasked, and seen for the deceiver that she has always been. Those worldly powers in the form of the ten kings of global elite leadership and their constituents that were the papacy’s greatest supporters and adherents, in despair of their own loss, turn on her, to her utter destruction, and “make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh and burn her with fire.” She and her daughters, the “beast” and the “false prophet,” will be “cast alive into a lake of fire.” Their apostate life of rebellion will have been for naught, their final doom of the second death assured. The “short space” of the revived seventh head will have come to its end.

FIRST ALTERNATE VIEW OF THE SEVEN HEADS BY URIAH SMITH

1. Kings – (753 BC – 509 BC); kings were though to be both Roman and Etruscan.
2. Consuls – (509 BC - 27 BC; nominal 27 BC - 887 AD) two co-rulers elected by the Senate for one year, principally to direct the military affairs of the nation, and lead the Senate meetings.
3. Decemvirs – (452 BC – 449 BC) three groups of 10 men each appointed by the Senate and directed to codify Roman law, thereby generating the law of the Twelve Tables. Some thought themselves above the law, bringing about the abolishment of the Decemvirs.
4. Dictators – (501 BC – 44 BC) appointed by the Senate for a 6-month term of office to deal with national security from incursions along Rome’s borders. During the collapsing Republic, in a desperate bid for political and military stability, the Senate appointed Julius Caesar as the last dictator, in perpetuity.
5. Triumvirs – (290 BC – 27 BC; First Triumvirate with Julius Caesar, Pompey, and Crassus was formed in 60 BC and ended in 53 BC with the death of Crassus; the Second “legal” Triumvirate with Octavius, Mark Antony and Lepidus lasted from 43 BC – 33 BC) initially self-selected, and finally Senate empowered, to salvage a collapsing Roman republic by controlling the civil, military and financial elements of the nation.
6. Emperors (Western: 27 BC – 476 AD; Eastern: 330 AD – 1453 AD)
7. Exarch of Ravenna (584 AD – 751 AD)
8. (Popes)

Uriah Smith’s explanation:

The Seven Heads. - The seven heads are explained to be, first, seven mountains, and then seven kings, or forms of government; for the expression in verse 10, “And there are seven kings,” should read, and these are seven kings. “Five are fallen,” says the angel, or passed away; “one is;” the sixth was then reigning; another was to come, and continue for a short space; and when the beast reappeared in its bloody and persecuting character, it was to be under the eighth form of government, which was to continue till the beast went into perdition. The seven forms of government that have existed in the Roman empire are usually enumerated as follows: (1) kingly; (2) consular; (3) decemvirate; (4) dictatorial; (5) triumvirate; (6) imperial; and (7) papal. Kings, consuls, decemvirs, dictators, and triumvirs had passed away in John’s day. He was living under the imperial form. Two

more were to arise after his time. One was only to continue a short space, and hence is not usually reckoned among the heads; while the last, which is usually denominated the seventh, is in reality the eighth. The head which was to succeed the imperial, and continue a short space, could not be the papal; for that has continued longer than all the rest put together. We understand, therefore, that the papal head is the eighth, and that a head of short continuance intervened between the imperial and papal. In fulfilment of this, we read that after the imperial form had been abolished, there was a ruler who for about the space of sixty years governed Rome under the title of the "Exarch of Ravenna." Thus we have the connecting link between the imperial and papal heads. The third phase of the beast that was, and is not, and yet is, is the Roman power under the rule of the papacy; and in this form it ascends out of the bottomless pit, or bases its power on pretensions which have no foundation but a mixture of Christian errors and pagan superstitions. {1897 UrS, DAR 704.3}

Regarding the Exarch of Ravenna, Uriah Smith writes:

Western Rome fell A.D. 476. Still, however, though the Roman sun was extinguished, its subordinate luminaries shone faintly while the senate and consuls continued. But after many civil reverses and changes of political fortune, at length, A.D. 566, the whole form of the ancient government was subverted, and Rome itself was reduced from being the empress of the world to a poor dukedom tributary to the Exarch of Ravenna. {1897 UrS, DAR 487.6}

Rebuttal of Uriah Smith's View

Uriah Smith shared the generally accepted view of the Advent pioneers that the seven heads were governing entities of Rome. His view of the first five heads were inclusive of the Kingdom of Rome and the Roman Republic. Rome as a kingdom did not have clear historical verification, and what had been recorded acknowledged that kings of that era were not strictly Roman, but also Etruscan. So the early Roman Kingdom was not purely Roman. Rome as a pure entity began as a Republic. It's ruling entities were simultaneous, not progressive, as Uriah Smith's view would suggest. The seventh head referred to as the Exarch of Ravenna was a temporary intervening agency after the fall of the Western Roman Empire.

SECOND ALTERNATE VIEW OF THE SEVEN HEADS

The seven heads

The alternate view of the 7 heads of the scarlet-colored beast consider them to be 7 kingdoms, monarchies, or world powers that, throughout the ages, have acted as Satan's agents to oppress God's people.

Following are some examples of successive kingdoms that have been suggested as identities of the 7 heads:

- 1. Babylon; 2. Medo-Persia; 3. Grecia; 4. Pagan Rome; 5. Papal Rome; 6. Atheistic France; 7. United States.
- 1. Babylon; 2. Medo-Persia; 3. Grecia; 4. Pagan Rome; 5. Papal Rome; 6. Communism; 7. United States.
- 1. Babylon; 2. Medo-Persia; 3. Greece; 4. Imperial Rome; 5. Barbarian Monarchies; 6. Papal Rome; 7. Napoleon Dynasty.
- 1. Babylon; 2. Medo-Persia; 3. Greece; 4. Imperial Rome; 5. Barbarian Monarchies; 6. Papal Rome; 7. United States.
- 1. Egypt; 2. Assyria; 3. Babylon; 4. Medo-Persia; 5. Greece; 6. Pagan Rome; 7. Papal Rome.
- 1. Babylon; 2. Medo-Persia; {3. Egypt; 4. Syria; 5. Thrace; 6. Macedonia} (3-6 represent Greece in its four kingdoms depicted in the four-headed leopard beast of Dan 7:6); 7. Rome.

Rev 17:9-10 describe the character of the seven heads. "Heads" in these verses refer to one at the top, or the chief. Regarding the "seven heads" and their relation to "seven kings" in Rev 17:10, the more

accurate translation is: “And **they** are seven kings”, as opposed to the KJV translation of: “And **there** are seven kings”. So, the seven heads are seven kings, or seven reigning authorities, or sovereigns, making up the “heads” of the scarlet-colored beast.

Proponents of the “head as kingdom” view often refer to Dan 7:17,18,23 for validation:

Dan 7:17,18,23

17 These great beasts, which are four, [are] four kings, [which] shall arise out of the earth.

18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

23 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.

The commonly held view of the “four kings” of verse 17 is that they are kings representing their kingdoms.

Regarding Dan 7:17,18,23 Uriah Smith states in his work, *Daniel and the Revelation*:

All Scripture language is to be taken literally, unless there exists some good reason for supposing it to be figurative; and all that is figurative is to be interpreted by that which is literal. That the language here used is symbolic, is evident from verse 17, which reads, “*These great beasts, which are four, are four kings which shall arise out of the earth.*” And to show that kingdoms are intended, and not merely individual kings, the angel continues, “But the saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom.” And further, in the explanation of verse 23, the angel said, “The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth.” These beasts are therefore symbols of four great kingdoms; and the circumstances under which they arose, and the means by which their elevation was accomplished, as represented in the prophecy, are symbolic also. The symbols introduced are, the four winds, the sea, four great beasts, ten horns, and another horn which had eyes and a mouth, and rose up in war against God and his people. We have now to inquire what they denote. {1897 UrS, DAR 123.4}

Distinction between “heads” and “beasts” as “kings” vs. “kingdoms”

It is one thing to refer to the four beasts as kings and also as kingdoms. It is another to refer to the heads as kings, then also as kingdoms. This is the critical point of bifurcation in the two views of the seven heads. If the heads are regarded as kings and are also, like the beasts upon which the heads are found, regarded also as kingdoms, then the seven heads as seven kings may well be considered seven kingdoms. The issue here, though, is that the heads are on the beasts, and are not the beasts themselves. If the heads, however, are to be kingdoms, then it is an obvious incongruity to consider a “head as a kingdom” to be sovereign over its own “beast as a kingdom”. Rather, a king, or a sovereign, would be ruler over its kingdom. So the use of “king” for a “head” is consistent with rulership, and would, therefore, not require a further designation as a kingdom.

“Heads” as kings, and not kingdoms

Scripture provides its own clarity regarding the notion of a king as ruling “head”. Dan 7:4 states that the leopard has four heads. All four heads pertain to sovereign rule over Greece, and not over the preceding two kingdoms of Babylon and Medo-Persia. Whether the four heads are kings or four divisions of the “kingdom” of Greece, they are at least not ruling entities of previous three kingdoms – particularly since there were only two previous kingdoms in Daniel’s vision, and Greece was autonomous.

The four heads of Greece also clearly depict the four generals who rose to power after the death of Alexander the Great (Dan 8:8,22), and continue in their related, albeit convolutedly combined, dynasties for the duration of the Greek empire’s existence. So the seven heads of Rome (Rev 12:3; 13:1; 17:3) similarly depict seven ruling entities that would rise to power for the duration of Rome’s existence.

Hiram Edson’s argument for 7 heads as 7 successive kingdoms

Hiram Edson, the first proponent of the 7 successive kingdom view of the seven heads, first published his proposal in *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, Vol. VII, No 20, February 14, 1856. In this segment of his series of articles entitled, "THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES", he stated:

"The inspired Interpreter testifies that *"the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sitteth. And they are seven kings, (or kingdoms - Whiting's translation,)* five are fallen, one is, and the other is not yet come," etc. {February 14, 1856 JWe, ARSH 153.21}

From this testimony we learn that the seven heads symbolize seven different successive forms of universal supremacy. Each form of universal supremacy or head has in its successive turn swayed the universal sceptre over all other minor governments and provinces. According to the inspired testimony, the woman, Babylon, has been seated upon each of the seven heads, or successive forms of the universal supremacy. But if this woman, Babylon, symbolizes ONLY the Papal form of the world's church, then she has never been seated upon more than two of the seven heads or mountains; viz., the sixth, or Papal head, and the seventh head, or Napoleon dynasty. {February 14, 1856 JWe, ARSH 154.1}

Those who make the seven heads symbolize seven different forms of the Roman government, make the Papal form the seventh head. According to this theory the woman Babylon had been seated upon six of the seven heads before the Papal form of the world's church existed. It was the PAGAN form of the world's church which sat upon the preceding forms of the Roman government until it gave place to the Papal form in the forepart of the sixth century of the christian era; hence the woman Babylon, symbolizes the Pagan, as well as the Papal form of Satan's counterfeit rival church; and this truth is also further sustained from the fact that in her is found the blood of saints, and of prophets, and of ALL that were slain upon the earth; hence we may put it down as a settled truth that this woman Babylon, symbolizes both the Pagan and Papal forms, or the world's church in her different forms through ALL ages. And the Pagan form of this church has been seated upon the ancestral Assyrian or Babylonian, the Medo-Persian, the Grecian, and the Roman kingdoms; hence ALL of these must necessarily be taken into the account of the seven heads, or forms of the universal supremacy. And if we allow the Bible to be its own interpreter of the seven heads, in vain shall we search the inspired volume for a designation of seven different successive forms of universal supremacy in the Roman government. {February 14, 1856 JWe, ARSH 154.2}

The present Napoleon dynasty with Louis Napoleon as its representative head, is by inspiration designated to be the eighth but is of the seven; (i.e., a revival of the seventh and goes into destruction. See Whiting's translation;) hence we can count heads no farther in this direction. The first Napoleon dynasty with Napoleon Buonaparte as its representative head which continued a short space, is also designated to be the true seventh head. This fact we have clearly demonstrated. {February 14, 1856 JWe, ARSH 154.3}

Rebuttal to Hiram Edson's "7 heads as 7 successive kingdoms" proposal:

To accept Whiting's translation of Rev 17:9, *"they are seven kings, (or kingdoms - Whiting's translation,)"*, is to confuse the issue between beasts as kings and kingdoms vs. heads as kings and kingdoms. While Scriptural precedent is established for beasts as kings, and further depicted as kingdoms, the same precedent is not established for calling heads anything beyond kings. Daniel's explanation, for example, called Nebuchadnezzar the "head of gold" in Dan 2:38: "he ... hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou [art] this head of gold." "Head" as ruler is clear in this context. "Head" as kingdom is not evident, but "Beast" as king, meaning "kingdom", is clear from the foregoing discussion.

Hiram Edson's second point that begs deeper scrutiny relates to the character of the "woman" of Rev 17. He states that "this woman Babylon, symbolizes both the Pagan and Papal forms, or the world's church in her different forms through ALL ages." According to EG White, however, emphasis is exclusively on "papal power":

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."* {7BC 983.4}

It will here be noted that no woman is seen sitting on the 7-headed 10-horned figure of Rev 12:3 or 13:1, but only on that of Rev 17:3. The great red dragon of Rev 12:3, representing the imperial pagan Roman era, is devoid of "papal power" directing its movements, particularly since no such entity as the papacy yet existed. The sea beast of Rev 13:1, representing the church-state union established at the beginning of the 1260-year papal reign in 538, also did not require "papal power" to direct it beyond the "head" already placed to guide and manage this era of the Roman beast. This "head" is the one that would receive a deadly wound (Rev 13:3), marking the conclusion of its 1260-year reign in 1798, so "papal power" was an attribute of this "head" as the papacy and hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church.

It is not until the time of the scarlet-colored beast of Rev 17:3 that the "woman" of "papal power" is seen sitting upon this 7-headed 10-horned creature. The wounded head is now healed, and resumes guidance and management of this beast from the vantage point of a healed condition of apostate Protestantism in combination with the Papal hierarchy. As informed by EG White:

The persecutions of Protestants by Romanism, by which the religion of Jesus Christ was almost annihilated, will be more than rivaled when **Protestantism and popery are combined**. The darkest pages of history will be opened in that great day when it will be too late for wrongs to be righted. Registered in the book are crimes that have been committed because of religious differences. We are not ignorant of the history. Europe was shaken as though with an earthquake, when a church, lifted up in pride and vanity, haughty and tyrannical, devoted to condemnation and death all who dared to think for themselves, and who ventured to take the Bible as the foundation of their faith. {1888 379.3}

The woman representing "papal power" sits atop the scarlet-colored beast of church-state union at the end of time during the revived Papal Roman era, which is first established in America. She directs the healed seventh head, of papal power combined with apostate Protestantism, of the revived church-state beast, guiding the Apostate Protestant churches of America to pressure the state to enact a law exalting the papal agenda of Sunday worship. Once this act is accomplished, and a National Sunday Law is passed, the wounded head will be healed, and the scarlet-colored beast of revived church-state union will have come alive. Protestantism in America will have given its kingdom to this healed seventh head. Papal oppression of God's true people will have been legally reinstated.

*Revelation 17:12, 13 Yet under **one head--the papal power**--the people will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses.* {Mar 187.2}

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. (Letter 232, 1899) {7BC 983.5} {Mar 187.3}

The last phase of the revived Papal Roman scarlet-colored beast is that of a church-state union of an apostate global empire. As cited earlier in this document, EG White acknowledges:

*Revelation 17:13, 14 (chs. 13:11-17; 16:13-16). A Confederacy of Satan's Forces. --[Revelation 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.* {7BC 983.6} {3SM 392.4} {Mar 187.4}

*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. (MS 24, 1891) {7BC 983.7} {3SM 392.5} {Mar 187.5}

*Church and the World in Corrupt Harmony. --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.** {7BC 975.9}*

Commentary on Hiram Edson's further connection between mountains as heads and kingdoms

Continuing his article on the "THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES", Hiram Edson bolsters his interpretation of the 7 heads are 7 successive kingdoms, with the suggestion that the seven mountains derive as 7 "grand divisions" from the "great mountain" that filled the whole earth. Quoting from his article:

The **stone** which became a great mountain or kingdom and filled the whole earth, [Dan.ii,35,45,] was **cut out of the mountain**. The mountain is a definite expression referring to an antecedent; and in this case has nothing in this connection to refer to for its antecedent, but the great image composed of its different metals, symbolizing different forms of supremacy. This great image symbolizes the Gentile supremacy over the people of God during their long period of 2520 years captivity. Jer.li, is a prediction of the destruction of all earthly or Gentile governments, and synchronizes with the smiting of the image upon its feet, when it becomes like the chaff of the summer threshing floors, and the wind carries them away, that no place was found for them. Dan.ii,35,45. The 25th verse of Jer.li, reads, "Behold I am against thee, O destroying MOUNTAIN saith the Lord, which destroyest ALL the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and make thee a burnt mountain." See also Zech.iv,7. {February 14, 1856 JWe, ARSH 154.15}

From the above we learn that the universal supremacy of Gentile dominion from its beginning to its final destruction is denominated THE GREAT MOUNTAIN. This great mountain has undergone several grand revolutions. The seven heads which are seven mountains, symbolize the seven changes or forms which the one great mountain has assumed by its seven grand revolutions. Seven is a perfect number, and brings the Gentile supremacy to its final crisis. {February 14, 1856 JWe, ARSH 154.16}

From the above we learn the fact that inspiration has designated Babylon, Medo-Persia, Grecia, and the four forms of supremacy in the Roman government. These are the true seven heads. {February 14, 1856 JWe, ARSH 154.17}

Uriah Smith, in his book *Daniel and the Revelation*, suggests another view of the "great mountain" as Christ's kingdom, and not as a foundation for the kingdoms of this world.

... the **stone cut out of the mountain without hand**, that is, the kingdom of Christ. This is to be accomplished when the Lord shall be revealed in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ...It is to fill the whole earth. {1897 UrS, DAR 79.4,5}

Uriah Smith's understanding of "the stone cut out of the mountain without hand" is congruent with EG White's perspective:

The record of the books is soon to be opened. The time is at hand when the vision of the prophets is to be fulfilled: "And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them." Daniel, speaking of the destruction of earthly kingdoms, says: "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the **stone was cut out of the mountain without hands**, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass,

the clay, the silver, and the gold: the great God hath made known . . . what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God: and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." {PH150 7.2}

Further consideration of the meaning of this "mountain" comes from the Aramaic word from which it was translated. As found in Dan 2:35,45, the word for "mountain" is OT 2906, "tuwr", an Aramaic term meaning "a rock", corresponding to OT 6697, meaning, figuratively, "a refuge". "Tuwr", referring to God's kingdom, is used only twice in the Old Testament, found only in these two verses. The "stone" had clear correspondence to Christ, the corner stone, and the "mountain" corresponds to His kingdom, built upon the "Rock" of Christ, our refuge.

*Dan 2:35 ... and the stone that smote the image became a great **mountain (OT 2906)**, and filled the whole earth.*

*Dan 2:45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the **mountain (OT 2906)** without hands ...*

OT:2906 tuwr (Aramaic) (toor); corresponding to OT:6697; **a rock** or hill: KJV - mountain.

OT:6697 tsuwr (tsoor); or tsur (tsoor); from OT:6696; properly, a cliff (or sharp rock, as compressed); generally, a rock or boulder; figuratively, **a refuge**; also an edge (as precipitous): KJV - edge, (mighty) God (one), rock, sharp, stone, strength, strong. See also OT:1049.

OT:6696 tsuwr (tsoor); a primitive root; to cramp, i.e. confine (in many applications, literally and figuratively, formative or hostile): KJV - adversary, assault, beset, besiege, bind (up), cast, distress, fashion, fortify, inclose, lay siege, put up in bags.

OT:1049 Beyth Tsuwr (bayth tsoor'); from OT:1004 and OT:6697; house of (the) rock; Beth-Tsur, a place in Palestine: KJV - Beth-zur.

OT:1004 bayith (bah'-yith); probably from OT:1129 abbreviated; a house (in the greatest variation of applications, especially family, etc.): KJV - court, daughter, door, dungeon, family, forth of, great as would contain, hangings, home [born], [winter] house (-hold), inside (-ward), palace, place, prison, steward, tablet, temple, web, within (-out).

OT:1129 banah (baw-naw'); a primitive root; to build (literally and figuratively): KJV - (begin to) build (-er), obtain children, make, repair, set (up), surely.

Acknowledging that the "mountain" of Dan 2:35,45 refers to God's kingdom, to come at the end of time, its reference as deriving from the previous kingdoms of this world becomes confusing and perhaps misleading.

Hiram Edson's further connects "seven heads" to "seven mountains" to "seven grand revolutions", which he follows on to describe as the seven successive kingdoms under Satan's direction to oppress God's people. He cites two further quotations from Scripture to support his point:

Jeremiah

51:24 And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the Lord.

51:25 Behold, I am against thee, O destroying **mountain (OT 2022)**, saith the Lord, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a **burnt (OT 8313) mountain (OT 2022)**.

Zechariah

4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This [is] the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

4:7 Who [art] thou, O great **mountain (OT 2022)**? before Zerubbabel [thou shalt become] a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone [thereof with] shoutings, [crying], Grace, grace unto it.

Mountain

OT:2022 har (har); a shortened form of OT:2042; a **mountain** or range of hills (sometimes used figuratively): KJV - hill (country), mount (-ain), promotion.

OT:2042 harar (haw-rawr'); from an unused root meaning to loom up; a mountain: KJV - hill, mount (-ain).

Burnt

OT:8316 serephah (ser-ay-faw'); from OT:8313; **cremation**: KJV - burning.

OT:8313 saraph (saw-raf'); a primitive root; to be (causatively, set) on fire: KJV - (cause to, make a) burn [-ing], up) kindle, utterly.

The seven mountains of the scarlet-colored beast, and papal sovereignty over a global religio-political kingdom

Reference Text: Rev 7:9 And here [is] the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

Proposed Meaning: The **seven mountains** include all the apostate churches as religio-political entities in league with civil government in the revived church-state union of the scarlet-colored beast.

In scripture, the term “mountain” has been used to depict the dominion of a sovereign’s legitimate rule, inclusive of his entire kingdom. Further, to “sit” is to occupy the throne as sovereign. God sits as sovereign (Dan 7:9; Rev 20:11) on His holy mountain, or heavenly kingdom (Eze 20:40; 28:14; Dan 9:16,20; Joel 2:1; 3:17). Lucifer, the inveterate counterfeiter, arrogantly claims, that “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.” (Isa 14:13). “Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of His creatures, it was Lucifer’s endeavor to win their service and homage to himself. And coveting the honor which the infinite Father had bestowed upon His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power which it was the prerogative of Christ alone to wield.” {GC88 494.1}

The “mount of the congregation” is principally described throughout much of scripture as the “tabernacle of the congregation” (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, 1 Samuel, 1 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles), relating to the sanctuary where God dwelt with his people, to beneficently direct their lives and receive their praise and worship. Lucifer’s statement of wishing to sit on the mount of the congregation, on the throne of God, indicates his intention to not only control the worldly affairs of his subjects as their king, but also to control their conscience and allegiance, demanding their exclusive worship as their god.

Representing her satanic master, the woman sits, or claims sovereignty, over the world. “Seven mountains” depict not only secular domains, but religious as well. At the end of time, when the final church-state union is legally mandated, the papacy will have dominion over a religio-political kingdom that is global. Isaiah further clarifies this state of affairs: “And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to

take away our reproach.” (Isaiah 4:1). The “seven women” represent all apostate churches. They profess Christianity, and accept the form of godliness, but deny its power. (2 Tim 3:5). “Papists, Protestants, and worldling 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.” {Mar 190.4}. Such is Satan’s studied design, to mislead souls to their utter ruin by obfuscating the truth of Christ, His Law, and His prophetic Word.

Revelation 2-3 describes the 7 Churches throughout the Christian era of the past 2000 years. Each church era was characterized by both a pure church element, and an apostate church element. The following chart summarizes the 7 Churches according to their pure and apostate characteristics. At the end of time, the composite of these 7 churches defines the final pure church and the final apostate church. The final pure church will be fully obedient to Christ and will reflect His character. The final apostate church will be fully obedient to Satan and will reflect Satan’s character. It is the apostate church that the woman of Revelation 17 sits atop as the 7 mountains of Rev 17:9.

Table Summarizing the Principal Characteristics of the 7 Churches – Pure and Apostate

God’s Pure Church	7 Churches	The Synagogue of Satan
The pure church adheres to God’s Word as the test of truth, has kept the purity of the gospel without perversion, and hates evil born of false doctrine, as in the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, including adultery and idolatry.	1 - Ephesus (31-100)	The apostate church loses its first love of Christ, and permits a foothold of Satan.
The pure church endures tribulation and poverty, but are rich in faith. Many are persecuted both by pagan Caesars (particularly during the murderous ten years of Diocletian’s persecutions from 303-313) and interfaith power struggles, but are victorious in their faith in Christ, even unto death.	2 - Smyrna (100-313)	The apostate church professes Christianity, but they blaspheme the Lord, pervert the gospel message, and split the church into many Christian sects, each vying for power in its own righteousness.
The pure church holds fast to Christ as their righteousness, even if it means martyrdom for the believer.	3 - Pergamos (313-538)	The apostate church compromises its faith, yielding to the Roman Caesars rather than to God. Their allegiance to Constantine and the Roman government ensures no further persecution. Christians are invited to leave their first estate in Christ, and come into positions of power and wealth, focusing principally on themselves and the world instead of on Jesus. Their witness, like Balaam’s, becomes a stumblingblock to others as they commit spiritual adultery with the power brokers of the world, putting their dependence upon man rather than upon God. Their gospel is based upon a false Nicolaitane doctrine, which claims that man is saved in his sins, and that professed faith is a substitute for obedience, thereby claiming a form of godliness but denying the power thereof.

The pure church is steeped in the love of God one for another, and with faith and patience has labored for the salvation of souls, even to their own peril. They have grown in the Word, and have kept themselves pure from papal error, countering with the truths of the bible.	4 - Thyatira (538-1798)	The apostate church of Satan's Synagogue is found in the "Jezebel" of the Papal Roman Catholic Church, which has spiritually fornicated with the kings of the earth by church-state coalitions, to use the might of the state to preserve the church's institutions and coerce humanity to believe and uphold its Satanic doctrines and dogmas. Papal influence has also polluted the Protestant movement by confusing the true 7th Day Sabbath with the false papal sabbath of Sunday. As such, the Protestant world stays in apostasy by aligning itself with its "mother" of the Roman Catholic Church, worshiping according to the traditions of men rather than in accordance with the Law of God. The apostate church thereby yields its obedience to man, and not to God, with fearful and eternal consequences.
The pure church has not defiled itself with papal error during the long period of spiritual darkness controlled by Roman Catholic Church doctrine and Counter-Reformation diatribe. They have held fast to the truths of the gospel message and Christ's righteousness as their sufficiency, knowing that He alone is worthy.	5 - Sardis (1798-1833)	The apostate church, or dead church, has lost its connection to Christ, having come out of the Dark Ages steeped in papal tradition and spiritual misperception, exalting man's traditions over God's law. If error is not replaced with the truth of God's Word, and their lives are not transformed in Christ, then they will be found wanting at Christ's 2nd Coming, and left to face eternal loss.
The pure church of brotherly love is comprised of the Advent Movement who proclaimed the three angels' messages and the soon 2nd Coming of Christ, and, despite disappointment and ridicule, followed Christ by faith into the Most Holy Place where He began his high priestly ministry of atonement, judging every man according to his works, and blotting out the sins of His truly repentant followers. The remnant of this movement will go through Jacob's time of trouble to see Christ coming in the clouds of glory, and will be translated in the twinkling of an eye.	6 - Philadelphia (1833-1844)	The apostate church will be made up of professed Christians who proclaim the name of Jesus, but their hearts are far from Him. They lie to themselves and the world, nominally claiming Christ as their Savior. They adulter truth with error, insisting on their own perversions of doctrine, and self-righteously establishing conditions for their fitness for heaven, thereby putting man's word over God's.
The pure church is counseled to prepare for Christ's 2nd Coming by receiving his Spirit and, therefore, the impartation of the Life of Christ, that He would be perfectly reflected in his remnant at the end of time. It is then that He will come and deliver His people. Jesus counsels His last day people to give the straight testimony that will bring about a shaking in the church, separating the wheat from the tares, the true from the false. As God's people, by faith, receive Christ's righteousness, love, and truth, they will receive His mind, His heart and His Spirit. The Lord will dwell in them and they	7 - Laodicea (1844-2nd Coming of Christ)	The apostate church remains lukewarm, being self-satisfied with the things of the world, having no continual need of a Savior. Salvation for them is once and for all time, not a daily conversion and ongoing maturing in Christ. They do not realize their true plight, that they are spiritually wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked, and in desperate and continual need of Jesus as their Savior. Because they live in pharisaical hypocrisy, being neither on fire for the Lord, doing His work zealously and obediently, nor aware of their true deplorable condition, the Lord would sooner vomit them from His

in Him. Consequently, they willingly undergo the Lord's chastening and cleansing, that they may be readied to be co-laborers with Him as Christ finishes His work in heaven, and simultaneously in His faithful remnant. They will be used of the Lord to give the Loud Cry message, calling God's people out of a fallen Babylon of church corruption.		mouth as nauseating and unsavory, unfit for heaven and eternity.
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The Repetition of the History of the Seven Churches at the End of Time

The 7 churches describe the historical progression of man's response to Jesus in receiving or rejecting His love, mercy, and grace, and staying faithful to His leading as a member of His true church, or apostatizing into the Synagogue of Satan. At the end of time, all the churches are simultaneously represented, depicting the character of those in each domain – either possessing the character of Christ, or the character of Satan. The seven churches will have been made complete – the pure church exemplifying the characteristics of all seven pure churches, completing God's church as the body of Christ, and the false church demonstrating the attributes of all seven false churches, completing the Synagogue, or congregation, of Satan.

The composite characteristics of the pure church at the end of time

The pure church

- adheres to God's Word as the test of truth,
- has kept the purity of the gospel without perversion, and
- hates evil born of false doctrine, as in the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, including adultery and idolatry.

The pure church

- endures tribulation and poverty, but are rich in faith, and
- are victorious in their faith in Christ, even unto death.

The pure church

- holds fast to Christ as their righteousness, even if it means martyrdom for the believer.

The pure church

- is steeped in the love of God one for another, and
- with faith and patience has labored for the salvation of souls, even to their own peril.
- They have grown in the Word, and
- have kept themselves pure from papal error, countering with the truths of the bible.

The pure church

- has not defiled itself with papal error.
- They have held fast to the truths of the gospel message and Christ's righteousness as their sufficiency, knowing that He alone is worthy.

The pure church

- exemplifies brotherly love and
- proclaims the three angels' messages and the soon 2nd Coming of Christ, despite disappointment and ridicule, and
- follows Christ by faith into the Most Holy Place.
- The remnant will go through Jacob's time of trouble to see Christ coming in the clouds of glory, and
- will be translated in the twinkling of an eye.

The pure church

- is counseled to prepare for Christ's 2nd Coming by receiving his Spirit and, therefore, the impartation of the Life of Christ, that He would be perfectly reflected in his remnant at the end of time.
- Jesus counsels His last day people to give the straight testimony and the third angel's message that will bring about a shaking in the church, separating the wheat from the tares.

- As God's people, by faith, receive Christ's righteousness, love, and truth, they will receive His mind, His heart and His Spirit.
- The Lord will dwell in them and they in Him.
- Consequently, they willingly undergo the Lord's chastening and cleansing, that they may be readied to be co-laborers with Him as Christ finishes His work in heaven, and simultaneously in His faithful remnant on earth .
- They will be used of the Lord to give the Loud Cry message, calling God's people out of a fallen Babylon of church corruption.

The composite attributes of the apostate church, the Synagogue of Satan, at the end of time

The apostate church

- loses its first love of Christ, and
- permits a foothold of Satan.

The apostate church

- professes Christianity, but they blaspheme the Lord, pervert the gospel message, and split the church into many Christian sects, each vying for power in its own righteousness.

The apostate church

- compromises its faith, yielding to man rather than to God.
- Their allegiance to government ensures no further persecution.
- Christians are invited to leave their first estate in Christ, and come into positions of power and wealth, focusing principally on themselves and the world instead of on Jesus.
- Their witness, like Balaam's, becomes a stumblingblock to others as they commit spiritual adultery with the power brokers of the world, putting their dependence upon man rather than upon God.
- Their gospel is based upon a false Nicolaitane doctrine, which claims that man is saved in his sins, and that professed faith is a substitute for obedience, thereby claiming a form of godliness but denying the power thereof.

The apostate church

- of Satan's Synagogue is found in the "Jezebel" of the Papal Roman Catholic Church, which has spiritually "fornicated" or carried out illicit unions with the kings of the earth, instead of full reliance upon God, by establishing church-state coalitions, to use the might of the state to preserve the church's institutions and coerce humanity to believe and uphold its Satanic doctrines and dogmas.
- Papal influence has also polluted the Protestant movement by confusing the true 7th Day Sabbath with the false papal sabbath of Sunday.
- As such, the Protestant world stays in apostasy by aligning itself with its "mother" of the Roman Catholic Church, worshiping according to the traditions of men rather than in accordance with the Law of God.
- The apostate church thereby yields its obedience to man, and not to God, with fearful and eternally devastating consequences.

The apostate church,

- or dead church, has lost its connection to Christ, being steeped in papal tradition and spiritual misperception, exalting man's traditions over God's law.
- If error is not replaced with the truth of God's Word, and their lives are not transformed in Christ, then they will be found wanting at Christ's 2nd Coming, and left to face eternal loss.

The apostate church

- will be made up of professed Christians who proclaim the name of Jesus, but their hearts are far from Him.
- They lie to themselves and the world, nominally claiming Christ as their Savior.
- They adulterate truth with error, insisting on their own perversions of doctrine, and self-righteously establishing conditions for their fitness for heaven, thereby putting man's word over God's.

The apostate church

- remains lukewarm, being self-satisfied with the things of the world, having no continual need of a Savior.

- Salvation for them is once and for all time, not a daily conversion and ongoing maturing in Christ.
- They do not realize their true plight, that they are spiritually wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked, and in desperate and continual need of Jesus as their Savior.
- Because they live in pharisaical hypocrisy, being neither on fire for the Lord, doing His work zealously and obediently, nor aware of their true deplorable condition, the Lord would sooner vomit them from His mouth as nauseating and unsavory, unfit for heaven and eternity. With this apostate church no longer in his mouth, Jesus can no longer confess them before the Father, and they will be proven unfit for an eternity in heaven.

Recap of the proposed view of “seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits”

While it is compelling to conclude that the seven mountains refer to the seven kingdoms, there is yet another view that is in harmony with the seven heads at the end of time, referring to the seven systems of Roman government that are all repeated in Rome’s final era of its revived apostate Protestant American/Global Empire. The seven mountains as all apostate churches at the end of time, has been addressed.

In this view, the seven heads represent the “state” component, and the seven mountains represent the “church” component, of the church-state union in the American and global empires, with emphasis primarily upon the seventh healed head of papal power. In full union, or consummated fornication, the two, the church and state, become illegitimately one. The apostate churches (the “seven women” in the last days, [Isa 4:1], depicted as mountains, as the “mount” upon which Lucifer wished to be enthroned in [Isa 14:13]) are one with the governments of the apostate American and global empires (the end-game phases of the scarlet-colored beast, ruled by heads, or sovereign authorities).

The seventh head of healed papal power rules over the empires, as the riding “woman” of the “combined” papacy (“Black” and “White”) at the end of time, orchestrates the confederation of all of Satan’s forces arrayed against Christ and His remnant faithful. In this way, “the seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits.” (Rev 7:9)

By delineating the seven heads in Rev 17:10, it brings the governmental focus to the sixth imperial head (the one that is) and the seventh healed papal head (the one that will come and continue a short space). It is under the sixth head that the “seven churches” or “seven mountains” are galvanized as they pressure the state, under the instigation of papal power of the riding woman of the “combined” papacy, to enact a Sunday Law, first National in the American Empire, then Universal, in the Global Empire. With the National Sunday Law, the process is set in motion through the healed seventh head of papal power, now sovereign, to proceed as previously discussed in regard to Rev 17:12-14.

To equate the seven heads (state) with the seven mountains (church), followed by the delineation of the seven kings, brings to the fore the central issue of the scarlet-colored beast – the end-time church-state union as Satan’s end game strategy of global dominion as man’s king and his god, creating a One World Order, or One World Government, and One World Church, or One Universal (Catholic) Church.