

While It Is Day

as it were, yet remains. But while already nation is rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, there is not now a general engagement. As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be scaled in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle.”

Spiritual Forces Behind Armageddon

We have seen that “all the men of war” are to engage in the preparation for the final conflict. It is interesting to study how they will be led into it. Revelation 16:13, 14, speaking of this great battle, discloses the fact that the pagan world (the dragon), the Catholic world (the beast), and the apostate Protestant world (the false prophet) are all drawn into the struggle. But while the struggle is of a temporal nature, spiritual forces motivate the nations. In other words, the unclean (evil) spirits working through religious organizations lead the nations into the struggle. Surely the present setting of world affairs closely approximates the setting necessary for Armageddon. While actuated by spiritualism working through religious agencies, nevertheless it is the nations (kings) who go forth to battle. At the same time the world repudiates the law, and hence the government, of God. Consequently the Lord also has a “controversy with the nations” and gives those that are wicked to the sword. Jeremiah 25:31.

The Scriptures indicate that Satan will more extensively use spiritualism to further his dark designs in these closing days. On the one hand the spirits of devils will unite the kings of the whole earth to battle (Revelation 16:13, 14), but, on the other hand, through spiritualism, Satan plans in an ever-increasing degree to appear as a benefactor of the human family. In more civilized lands spiritualism takes the form of Christianity. There will even be a “profession” of faith in the Bible and in other religious functions and institutions of the church. There will be an effort to bring about a “religious” revival. 2 Corinthians 11:14,15. But it is with “power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness” that through spiritualism the evil one will most fully bring multitudes under his control. Miracles will be wrought, and the sick will be healed. Roman Catholics, so inclined to look to miracle working as an evidence of truth, will be readily deceived. Protestants, having departed from the protection of Scriptural safeguards, also fall a prey to his devices. Both classes, having rejected the Biblical teaching on the state of the dead, open their gates for the triumphal march of spiritualism into their ranks.

The crowning act in the drama of deception comes when Satan himself personates Christ. Assuming the glorious appearance of Christ as pictured in the Revelation, the great deceiver endeavors to make it appear that Christ has come. So spectacular is his appearance that the cry goes forth, “Christ has come! Christ has come!” - The Great Controversy, Page 624. This and other factors lead to a great wave of false religious enthusiasm, resulting in the spread of false revivals. But Satan cannot deceive the true children of God. They understand quite fully the manner of Christ’s Second Coming. To them the Scriptures are a safeguard, and they look for the Son of man, not on earth, in the secret chamber, the massive temple, or the desert, but with all His holy angels in the clouds of heaven.

Apostate Protestantism in America

The appearance of Satan and his ministers as ministers of right is primarily to deceive the inhabitants of earth on the major issue of the great controversy. It is on the law of God that the last great struggle of the controversy between Christ and His angels and Satan and his angels will come, and it will be decisive for all the world.” - Christian Service, Page 155.

The beast regains his power and prestige in the Old World. In the New, apostate Protestantism creates an image to him. Revelation 13:12-14. We understand that the ultimate object of both the beast and his image is to enforce the papal Sunday in opposition to the divine Sabbath. At this juncture it would be well for us to review briefly the part played by the United States in this fast-approaching and fast-unfolding drama. The power brought to view in Revelation 13:11 has been identified as the United States. It came up silently as a plant “out of the earth.” The “earth” in Bible prophecy, in contradistinction to the “sea” where the papacy arose, is the New World. Revelation 13:1; 17:15. This new power has two uncrowned horns denoting civil and religious liberty. It is a nation without a crowned king and a church without a crowned pontiff. It came into existence not through the strivings of winds upon the sea of humanity, but through the peaceful migrations of followers of the Lamb. It was the “earth” that swallowed up the flood of persecution which the dragon brought against the woman. Revelation 12:16.

When this power follows in the footsteps of Rome by fusing religion and politics, when church and state combine to make an image to the first beast, then this power speaks “as a dragon.” This takes place when this “nation shall so abjure the principles of its government as to enact a Sunday law.” Then