

DIVIDED WE STAND-DIVIDED WE FALL

Women's Missionary Union President Dorothy Sample said recently that the Southern Baptists are in danger of God's rebuke if they do not solve their political quarrels.

Yes, Dorothy, there is a great danger, but the important question to be answered by Baptists and Christians in general at this critical time in history is "How will God rebuke?"

"SURELY THE LORD GOD WILL DO NOTHING BUT HE REVEALETH HIS SECRET UNTO HIS SERVANTS THE PROPHETS."

But, you say, Christendom has many preachers, professors of theology, and every person in the pew an interpreter of the Scriptures, but they have no prophet to rebuke!

The Bible shows that whenever God wanted to revive, reform, and rebuke His people, He did it through a prophet like Isaiah, Ezekiel, Paul or some other inspired one.

Some think that there are to be no prophets in the last days of this earth's history, but the Bible says differently: "And he gave...prophets...For the perfecting of the saints...Till we all come in the unity of the faith...unto a perfect man." Eph. 4:11,12,13.

Christians say they believe the Inerrancy of the Bible, but we may ask, Do they believe the Scriptures which state emphatically that there will be no help from God, no unity of faith, no rebuke without a prophet: "And by a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved." Hosea 12:13.

God is angry with Christians who say every person in the pew is his own interpreter, for He has already warned us of what we must know first as a Christian: "Knowing this FIRST, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any PRIVATE interpretation. For prophecy came not old time by the will of man; but holy men (PROPHETS) of God spake as they were MOVED by the Holy Ghost." 1Pet. 1:20,21.

This truth is illustrated in Acts 8:31 where the Ethiopian told Philip that he could not understand Isaiah without an interpreter. Also in Acts 10:18 God used the prophet Peter to instruct Cornelius; Acts 9:10-11 tells of the prophet Ananias teaching Saul; Acts 11:27 speaks of prophets sent from Jerusalem to Antioch; and Acts 13:1 and 15:32 records the work of various prophets. There were even women prophets such as Anna (Luke 2:36-38), Mary, the Mother of Jesus (Luke 1:46-55), the four virgin daughters of Philip (Acts 21:7-9), and the women witnesses on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:8-14; 2:4), all of

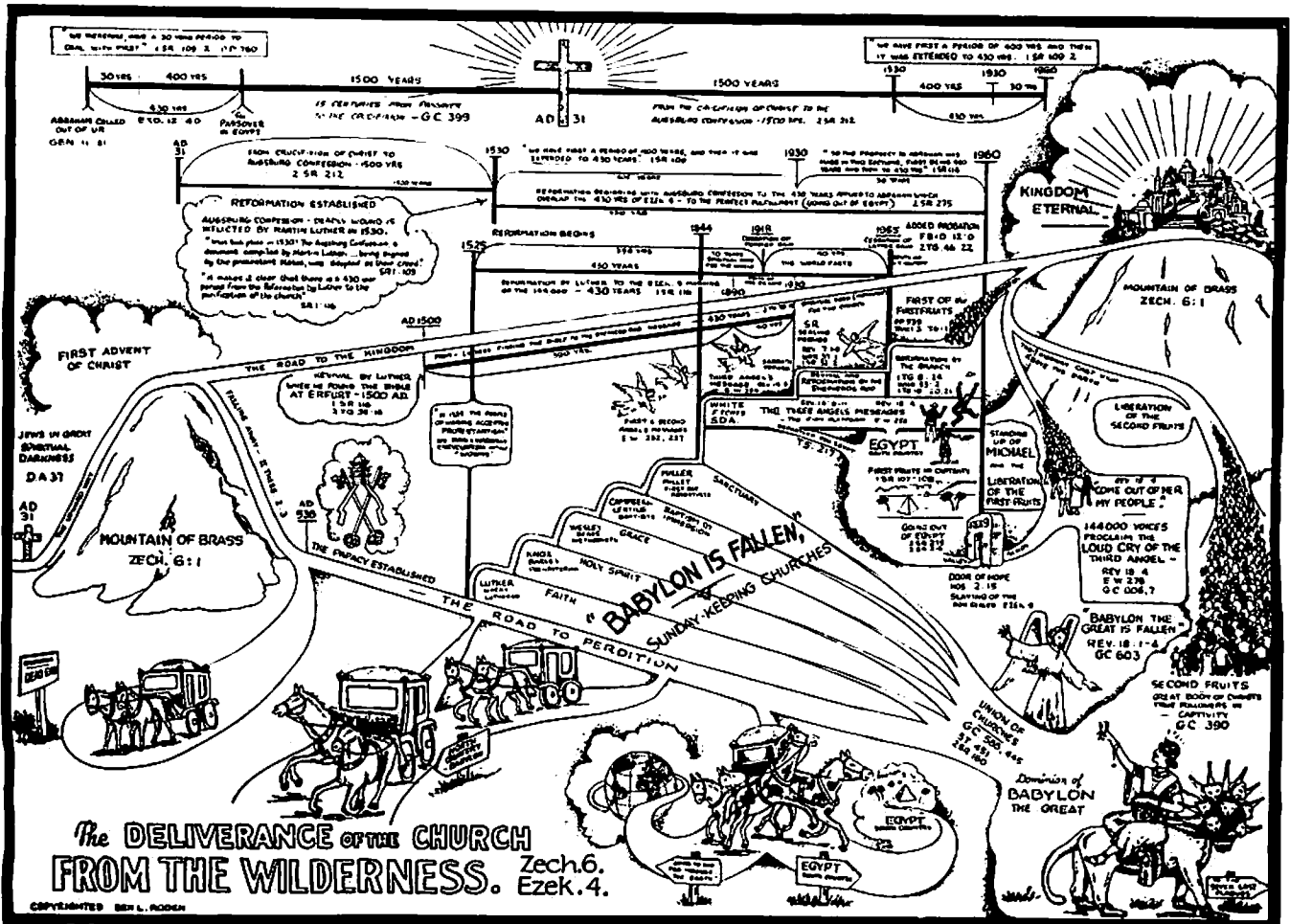
whom were a part of the new priesthood after the order of Melchisedec (Heb. 7) in which "There is neither...male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:28 How crazy for some to believe that the prophets were only in Old Testament times. All through the New Testament God spoke through the prophets both male and female to His people. On the Day of Pentecost. Peter, quoting Joel 2:28, spoke of women prophesying.

Yes, prophets were given for the "perfecting of the saints," for the "unity of the faith...unto a perfect man." Eph. 4:12,13. Not until that "which is perfect is come, then that which is in part (prophecy) shall be done away." 1 Cor. 13:10. It clearly cannot be shown that the church, in the lifetime of Paul, reached the state of unity, perfection, and knowledge spoken of in Ephesians 4. Nor did the church reach this unity during the Dark Ages of her apostasy (2 Thess. 2:3). Nor has she reached this perfection since the days of Martin Luther. Most emphatically the church very obviously is infinitely below this state of unity. Not until the gift of prophets and all the other gifts are in the church will she reach this state of perfection.

We all know about 2 Thess. 2:3 where Paul prophesied of the great falling away that would come to the early Christian church. Since the tragic apostasy, the gifts were rarely manifested and Christians came to believe that they were only for the primitive church. But, again, let us remember Paul's prophecy that they would be resident in the church until the "perfecting of the saints" an event YET FUTURE FROM PAUL'S DAY.

HOWEVER, WHAT MOST OF US DO NOT KNOW IS THAT SATAN HAS SUCCEEDED IN BLINDING THE EYES OF THE CHURCH TODAY AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THE "MAN OF SIN" RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "FALLING AWAY". THIS "MAN OF SIN" OF 2 THESS. 2:3 IS THE SAME PERSON SPOKEN OF IN DANIEL 11:27 "NEITHER SHALL HE REGARD THE GOD OF HIS FATHERS, NOR THE DESIRE OF WOMEN...FOR HE SHALL MAGNIFY HIMSELF ABOVE ALL." HE IS ALSO REVEALED IN DANIEL 7:25 "AND HE SHALL SPEAK GREAT WORDS AGAINST THE MOST HIGH, AND SHALL WEAR OUT THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH, AND THINK TO CHANGE TIMES AND LAWS."

"It was the Catholic Church which, by the authority of Jesus Christ, has transferred this rest to the Sunday in remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord. Thus the observance of Sunday by



Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] church." by Monsignor Segur, *Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today*, p. 213. "Reason and common sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday or Catholicity and the keeping of Sunday. Compromise is impossible." Cardinal Gibbons, in his official church paper, the *Catholic Mirror*, December 23, 1893. The *Kansas City Catholic*, a Roman Catholic church paper, states definitely that "The Catholic church of its own infallible authority created Sunday a holy day to take the place of the Sabbath." "The Council of Laodicea [about AD 364]...first settled the observation of the Lord's day, and prohibited...the keeping of the...Sabbath under an anathema." - *Dissertation on the Lord's Day*, p. 163.

GOD SAYS TO THOSE WHO BLOW THE TRUMPET SO LOUDLY ABOUT THE INERRANCY OF THE SCRIPTURES: THE SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH, NOT THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK. Edward T. Hiscox, DD, author of *The Baptist Manual* in an address before a Baptist Convention of ministers, and reported in the *New York Examiner*, November 16, 1893, stated, "There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday....I ask, Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament, absolutely not. There is no Scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week."

Not only did the papacy change the Sabbath to Sunday, and the feasts of Leviticus 23 to pagan-oriented feasts, but he took away the "desire of women" (Dan. 11:37) by forbidding them either their rightful place of equality in the priesthood or in the home. Research the *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers* volumes, and the Roman Catholic Council edicts: the Council of Orange, AD 441, the Council of Epaon, AD 517, and the Council of Orleans II, AD 533.

NOTICE THE CHART. *The Mountain of Brass* on the left represents the Early Christian Church in her purity. The "Road to the Kingdom" takes a downward plunge when the church falls into apostasy as prophesied by Paul in 2 Thess. 2:3. History tells us what this prophecy foretold: the Roman Catholic Church was established and the whole truth "which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3), was changed into a lie (2 Thess. 2:11) and *The Road to Perdition* was laid down. The first step of the stairway back to *The Road to the Kingdom* was established with Martin Luther of Germany (Lutherans), that first great prophet of the Protestant Reformation, and continued step by step with each succeeding prophet John Knox of Scotland (Presbyterian), John Wesley of England (Methodists), Alexander Campbell of the United States (Christian Church), William Miller of the United States (Baptist), and Ellen G. White of the United States (Seventh-day Adventists). Check out the prophecy of these six prophetic movements in the book of Ezekiel, Chapter 4. The seventh and last prophetic movement is even now breaking upon the world scene. "But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound the mystery of God should be finished." Rev. 10:7

The history of these prophetic movements and their divinely inspired prophets, who by the power of God led the church step by step out of the darkness of the "pit of perdition/Babylon" into a clearer light with each succeeding step illustrates that "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7), and that "By a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt (darkness of error), and by a prophet was he preserved" (Hosea 12:13). However, the church at each step failed to advance with the "light that shineth in a dark place" (11 Pet. 1:19) and continued not in the stairway back to *The Roadway to the Kingdom* "the path of the just, that shineth more and more (step after step upward)) unto the perfect day" (Proverbs 4:18).

Some of the prophecies of Christ (Matt. 24) regarding the special signs that would be given heralding the end time just before His second coming were signally fulfilled and widely recognized with the Lisbon earthquake in 1755, the supernatural darkening of the sun and moon in 1780 and the falling of the stars in 1833. These events proceeded the fifth prophet of the Reformation, the Baptist minister William Miller, who began proclaiming the second coming of Christ in 1833 until 1844. A great religious awakening took place in America as the judgment of the dead was announced (Rev. 14:6-8) "Fear God, and give glory to Him: for the hour of His judgment is come." God revealed to Miller the understanding of the 2300 year prophecy of Daniel 8:14, which ended in 1844.

In 1844, Ellen G. White received the gift of inspiration as the path of the just continued upward to the road of the truth "once delivered unto the saints." It was the Seventh-day Baptists who introduced the seventh-day Sabbath to Ellen G. White, a girl of 17, and God confirmed it through a vision to her.

Decades later, as each of the churches of the Reformation had failed, like the Jews, to advance onto the next step of truth on the stairway of the "path of the just," they began unitedly to reject the revelation of the seventh day Sabbath revealed through the Word of God as they recognized the power and authority of Rome to change the Sabbath to Sunday. This was greatly evidenced in the fallen churches' successful efforts in their use of civil power as they

almost succeeded in obtaining A NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW. One of the most militant fundamentalist religionists of the 1880's, Jonathan Edwards, reflected the attitude of the major Protestant denominations toward those who observed the Bible Sabbath of the seventh day: "We want State and Religion, and we are going to have it...we are warned that it will infringe the rights of...Jews...Seventh-day Baptists...These all are...one class...They cannot dwell together [with Sundaykeepers] on the same continent!" *National Reform Convention*, Feb. 26,27, 1873. In 1888 a National Sunday Rest Bill, Senate Bill No. 2983, was introduced by Senator H.W. Blair in the First Session of the Fiftieth Congress. It was defeated.

In a recent news release from the *Religious News Service*, we are informed "of the convergence of religion and politics to take place in 1988" at which time the new association of evangelical broadcasters-called 'Active' hope to take over the National Republican Party through the implementation of the 'Texas Plan' which they used to dominate the Texas Republican Party in 1984. The first attempt to unite church and state nationally through a national Sunday law in 1888 is exactly one hundred years to 1988 when the national takeover is planned at which time the Moral Majority or Religious Right desire to set up modern Israel and join church and state. Dr. Duke, professor of Ethics and Theology at William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri, states that "The success of the Religious Right may pay dividends by forcing us to address the religious trappings of our political activity. For instance, we may be prodded to scrutinize our traditional support for 'blue laws.' Are we concerned about workers' needs or do we wish to impose our holy day on all, including Jews, Seventh-day Adventists [and Seventh-day Baptists]...The continuing challenge of the Religious Right [modern counterpart of the Jonathan Edwardses of 1888] may be the jolt we need to walk away from the Tower of Babel we built." *Report from the Capital*, June 1984. Dr. Donald F. Boles, professor of political science at Iowa State University, correctly observes that "Those religious fundamentalists who are agitating for national laws formalizing some of their beliefs are nourishing A BEAST that can turn and rend them." *Church and State*, May 1985. Read Revelation 13 about the twohorned beast who will "rend" you when he makes that image to Papal Rome and brings in a national Sunday law honoring the creation of Rome.

"The sign, or seal [mark] of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath....'It is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations...' (Ex. 31:12,13). The mark of the beast is the opposite of this, the observance of the first day of the week. This mark distinguishes those who acknowledge the supremacy of the papal authority from those who acknowledge the authority of God." - *Selected*. "The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin [papacy]...and the fires of persecution will be rekindled..." *Our Present Dangers*, 1891. "When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine [Sunday holiness] as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce decrees...then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result." *The Great Controversy*, p. 445. "The 'image to the beast' represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas." *Id.*

DEAR CHRISTIAN BRETHREN: "CHRISTIANS OF PAST GENERATIONS OBSERVED THE SUNDAY, SUPPOSING THAT IN SO DOING THEY WERE KEEPING THE BIBLE SABBATH; AND THERE ARE NOW TRUE CHRISTIANS IN EVERY CHURCH, NOT EXCEPTING THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNION, WHO HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT SUNDAY IS THE SABBATH OF DIVINE APPOINTMENT. GOD ACCEPTS THEIR SINCERITY OF PURPOSE AND THEIR INTEGRITY BEFORE HIM. BUT WHEN SUNDAY OBSERVANCE SHALL BE ENFORCED BY LAW, AND THE WORLD SHALL BE ENLIGHTENED CONCERNING THE OBLIGATION OF THE TRUE SABBATH, THEN WHOSOEVER SHALL TRANSGRESS THE COMMAND OF GOD, TO OBEY A PRECEPT WHICH HAS NO HIGHER AUTHORITY THAN THAT OF ROME, WILL THEREBY HONOR POPERY ABOVE GOD. HE IS PAYING HOMAGE TO ROME, AND TO THE POWER WHICH ENFORCES THE INSTITUTION ORDAINED BY ROME. HE IS WORSHIPPING THE BEAST AND HIS IMAGE....THOSE WHO CONTINUE IN TRANSGRESSION WILL RECEIVE 'THE MARK OF THE BEAST.'" *Id.* p. 449.

The Seventh-day Adventists were given a divine commission to warn the world of these events, but they themselves rejected truth from Heaven in 1929, 1955, and 1977, when divinely inspired messengers bearing the 4th, 5th, and 6th angels messages of Revelation 14:14-18 were sent to them. Now God calls the world to witness what He will do to His rebellious children in the Seventh-day Adventist church. Read Amos 3:7-10. The prophetic voice of the Seventh Angel of Revelation 10:7 is speaking to you. The seventh and last prophetic movement of the Reformation has been raised up by God with a prophet to call you to repentance and to bring the Reformation to a grand, glorious climax of unity amongst God's children of all denominations and religions (Eph. 4:13). "SURELY THE LORD GOD WILL DO NOTHING, BUT HE REVEALETH HIS SECRET UNTO HIS SERVANTS THE PROPHETS (LIVING TODAY)." AMOS 3:7.

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