

utions, it is said that the words VICARIVS FILII DEI appear on the tiarra that he wears, and that man is the Pope of Rome. Selecting the letters of numerical value from these three Latin words, and in adding them together, makes the sum of 666. As current history moves on, in time it will be revealed more fully how the beast itself bears this number, or will be identified more exactly.

"If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, (or in other words: if anyone will accept or support in any way this false Roman Catholic religious system), 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." Rev. 14:9, 10.

"Oh!" says one, "but I don't uphold or worship his religious system." You may be very sincere in such a statement, but are you sure you are acquitted. If you observe Sunday as a holy day in place of the Sabbath of the Lord, you are demonstrating a heart of love and loyalty to the beast who, together with the Pope, ruled the world during the dark ages, and thereby are receiving his mark.

Christ did not change the Sabbath to Sunday, nor did the Apostles. The very name **Sunday** is of heathen origin. Webster, in his Unabridged Dictionary, defines Sunday thus: "so called because this day was anciently dedicated to the sun, or to its worship; the first day of the week."

The change from Sabbath to Sunday was a gradual work. This heathen festival was gradually brought into the church by the professed conversion of some heathen to Christianity who continued to observe some pagan rites and festivals. But it was really left to Constantine, Emperor of Rome, to sanction

Sunday as a day of rest in place of the true Sabbath. In A. D. 321, Constantine issued the following edict:

"Let all the judges and town people; and the occupation of all trades, rest on the venerable day of the sun; but let those who are situated in the country, freely and at full liberty attend to the business of agriculture because it often happens that no other day is so fit for sowing corn and planting vines."

Later the country people, too, were requested to rest on Sunday. The Roman Catholic church, in their books, teaches that they themselves changed the day of rest from Sabbath to Sunday.

The Sabbath is a sign or mark of God's creative power. Exo. 20:9-11. Those who keep the true Sabbath as a holy day of rest, demonstrate a heart of love and loyalty to the Creator of heaven and earth. Who do you honor and love? the Lord who commanded us to love him and keep his commandments, or the one who sanctioned Sunday and boasts of having power to change God's law? Dan. 7: 23-25.

From a close study of the Book of Revelation, it appears that the seven last plagues, as described in chapters 15 and 16, will fall immediately after the final warning message has been given, upon those who refuse to heed the warning.

"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God."

"And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the **mark of the beast**, and upon them which **worshipped his image**."

May the Lord give each honest soul grace sufficient to see the necessity of obeying all of God's commands. God bless you.

John Kiesz.

### Introduction

When Jesus told his disciples of the signs of the times that would precede his second coming and the end of the world, he also told them:

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matt. 24:14.

The Glad Tidings were originally brought to the children of Israel.

"These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into the city of the Samaritans enter ye not: but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt. 10:5-7; Luke 24:46-47.

### The First Angel's Message

The gospel was not intended for the house of Israel only, but it was "to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Rom. 1:16. The middle wall of partition was removed thru Christ. Soon after Jesus ascended, he revealed to Peter not to call the Gentiles common or unclean. Acts 10:28. A few years later, while Paul was preaching in Antioch, it happened on a certain Sabbath-day that almost the whole city came together to hear the Word of God.

"But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the Word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles." Acts 13:44-46.

The gospel having been proclaimed to the Jews, it was very appropriate and logical that God would show, in order, this vision to John:

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Rev. 14:6, 7.

It is very obvious that this message, known as the First Angel's Message, commenced when the Jewish race rejected the gospel of Christ, or the "everlasting gospel" as it is referred to here, for the message was then to go to all nations. An angel is a symbol of a messenger. The First Angel's Message was to all idolatrous peoples to "worship him that made heaven and earth." This message did not cease when the Second Angel's Message began, nor when the Third Angel's Message commenced, but they all three continue together.

The First Angel's Message includes the proclamation of "The hour of his judgment is come." That was part of the Apostles preaching.

"For the time is come (in his day) that judgment begin at the house of God; and if it first begin at us, what shall the end of them be that obey not the gospel?" 1 Pet. 4:17.

"For judgment am I come in the world." Jno. 9:39.

"Now is the judgment of this world." Jno. 12:31.

When the gospel is brot to an individual it is his privilege to either accept or reject everlasting life. The final choice he makes decides his case, and the hour of judgment is come to that party. Similar language is Paul's: "Seeing . . . you have judged yourselves unworthy of eternal life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles." Acts 13:44-46.

The First Angel's Message is also that of the "everlasting gospel." This gospel absolutely began in

the days of the Apostles—not over eighteen hundred years later.

"If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." Gal. 1:

#### The Second Angel's Message

"And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Rev. 14:8.

To know when this message commenced, we must know something about history and we must know what or who Babylon is. The term "Babylon, or Babel," means confusion.

All well-informed people know that the seventeenth chapter of Revelation gives a description of the Roman Catholic church. "And upon her forehead was a name written, **Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.**" Verse 5.

This Second Angel's Message (of Rev. 14:8, and 18:1-4) is that this mysterious Babylon is fallen, is fallen. It does not proclaim that it has come to its end, but that it has fallen. Its final doom and end is pictured in the latter parts of Rev. 18, and 19.

Babylon's (The Roman Catholic Church's) fall was that of power and prestige. Consult history, and see how the Roman church lost its power and prestige, in propagating deception and error, during the Great Reformation. The Reformation brot about the beginning of Babylon's fall. The Second Angel's Message began with such great Protestant reformers as Luther, Wycliffe, Calvin, Huss, and others. Beginning with the Reformation, the Roman Catholic church began losing power and prestige, step by step, until in 1798 it so completely fell that the Pope of Rome was even taken prisoner by Napoleon Bonapart. As a church it did not cease to exist. According to Rev. 13:3, and 17:8 the fall was not final; that

is, this church was to revive again.

#### The Third Angel's Message

The reason for calling the two preceding messages the First, and Second Angel's Message is because this one is called the Third:

"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, 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." Rev. 14:9, 10.

Now, we have all the three angels' messages going forth together. The Third Angel's Message seems to be especially given to warn the inhabitants of the earth against worshipping the beast and his image, or receiving his mark in his forehead or his hand; for the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God.

We are living in the time when this warning message should be speedily proclaimed to the whole world by the remnant church (Rev. 12:17), of which it is said: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14:12.

For the last few years the Roman Catholic church seems to be in the process of reviving very rapidly. It is becoming very bold, and seemingly has great prestige again. As the warning message is mainly against worshipping the beast and his image, the question naturally arises, "Who, or what is the beast?"

"Here is wisdom, let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is six hundred three score and six (666)." Rev. 13:18.

Of the man having been closely connected with the beast power during the 1260 years of papal perse-