

Study for the Month of August 2016

By Nathaniel Fajardo
Whole Gospel Ministries
PO Box 1764 Loma Linda, CA 92354
Tel (951) 685-1956 (leave a message) email: natfajardo777@yahoo.com
Web: www.wholegospelministries.org

The 'Man of Sin' of Bible Prophecy and his activities and career - Part XVI

THE THREE BABYLONS No. III:

Spiritual Babylon: the Mother of Harlots and the Abominations of the Earth

Late Breaking News Bits:

"Epic Middle East Heat Wave is Being Compared to Weapon of Mass Destruction." By Climate Nexus. August 11, 2016. www.ecowatch.com/middle-east-heat-wave-weapon-of-mass-destruction-1968326237.html.

"Recent extreme heat events in the Middle East have climate scientists worried about future climate-related catastrophes. Temperatures have climbed above 115F across the region this summer and Kuwait and Iraq recently recorded most likely *the hottest temperatures ever in the Eastern Hemisphere*. (emphasis mine).

Record-breaking extreme heat---*estimated to have claimed more lives than wars*---has worsened over the years and recent studies have suggested climate change will make parts of the region uninhabitable. A sergeant major in Iraq equated the heat wave to a weapon of mass destruction, saying, 'It makes my skin crawl. It is killing us.'"

Q. What or who is actually causing these upheavals of nature—in this instance, "future climate-related catastrophes"? Is it really "Mother Nature" going off on one of her destructive "tantrums"? Who is manipulating "Mother Nature"? Is it totally man-made such as the super conspiracy theories that "New World Order" Hegellian superpowers have been secretly orchestrating wars, breeding deadly bacteria and viruses in secret laboratories for biological warfare, and employing the latest science and technologies to reducing the world's population by culling them? Are these attacks from sinister "aliens from outer space"?

All these theories—whether sophomoric, scientific, and even outright moronic swirling in the ether results in confusion and spiritual blindness, primarily because they all have forsaken God's law and His word and placed their trust, confidence, and salvation on the wisdom of this world which is foolishness with God." _____. In particular, such are designed to cause *the churches* to be blindsided when Satan, the "father of lies," "master deceiver," and "murderer from the beginning," working through his special agencies on earth, pulls all stops and unleashes his final deceptions which reaches its climax in his "overmastering

delusion” during the time of trouble. But God’s people in these last days are distinctly and specially privileged to be armed with the truth and guided by the Spirit of Prophecy. Are you availing of and appropriating this precious light of truth?

There are two diametrically different harvest of souls simultaneously taking place on earth in these last days which are the most solemn period of earth’s six thousand year history, beginning on October 1844 when the pre-advent or Investigative Judgment commenced in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary at the termination of the 2300-day prophecy of Dan. 8: 14.

One harvest is by Christ through His angels and the people proclaiming the harvest message of the three angels of Revelation 14; the other by Satan through his evil angels and human agencies, particularly “Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and the Abominations of the Earth.” Rev. 17:____. Note the following excerpts from the inspired pen (emphasis mine):

“Satan works through the elements also to *garner his harvest of unprepared souls*. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements *as far as God allows*. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures, and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer.

“But the *Christian world* [not Islam or the other world polytheistic “heathen” religions] has shown contempt for the law of Jehovah and the Lord does just what he has declared that He would do, He withdraws His blessings from the earth, *and removes His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law, and teaching and forcing others to do the same*. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. [There is no such thing as neutral ground in the great controversy between Christ and Satan! We are either for or against God.] He [Satan] will favor and prosper some in order to further his own designs, and he will bring trouble upon others, and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.

“While appearing to the children of men [not “the children of God”] as a great physician who can heal all their maladies [spiritualistic healings and counterfeit health reform], he will bring disease and disaster until *populous cities* are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves [tsunamis], and earthquakes, in every place and in *a thousand forms*, is Satan exercising his power.

“*He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow*. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. *These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous*. Destruction will be upon the inhabitants of the world. The beasts of the field will groan, and the earth will languish. [“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.” Rom. 8: 22, K.J.V.]” – Ellen G. White, Vol. 4 *Spirit of Prophecy*, (1884 edition), pp. 407-8, Pacific Press; Review & Herald Publishing.

NOTE: The Christian world today does not know God's time of visitation even as the Jewish nation, the "chosen people," did not know their long-prophesied time of visitation in Christ's time! See Luke 19: 41-44; cf. Jer. 8: 12; 10: 15; 11: 23; 23; 12; 46: 21; 48: 44; 50: 27; 51: 18; Hosea 9: 7; Micah 7: 4; cf. 1 Pet 2: 11, 12.

Q. What is Satan's real agenda and purpose in all these devastations he is wreaking upon mankind, only as far as God allows—which has always been blamed upon God, as in the language "acts of God" and "force majeure" provisions included in all contracts?

"And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon *the faithful few whom the Lord has sent to them with messages of warning and reproof* [not "peace-and-safety" messages, 1 Thess. 5: 3!]

"It will be declared that the nation [America, in particular] is offending God by the violation of the Sunday-Sabbath, that this sin has brought calamities which shall not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced, and that those who present the claims of *the fourth commandment*, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the nation, preventing its restoration to divine favor and *temporal prosperity*.

"Thus the accusation urged of old against the servant of God will be *repeated*, and upon *grounds equally well established*. "And it came to pass when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel, but thou and they father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandment of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim.' 1 Kings 18: 17, 18.

"As *the wrath of the people* ["the waters" the "sea" of humanity] shall be excited by false charges, they will pursue a course toward God's ambassadors *very similar* to that which *apostate Israel* pursued towards Elijah.

The Role of Modern-day Spiritualism. – "The miracle-working power manifested through Spiritualism will exert its influence against those who choose to obey God rather than men. Messages will come from the spirits [fallen angels, demons] declaring that God has sent them to inform the rejecters of Sunday that they are in error, and that *the laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God*. They will lament the great wickedness in the world, and second the testimony of religious teachers, *that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday* [!] Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony.

"Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth.

"Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the [civil] government.

"Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law [teaching that all we need is "faith" and that we are "already saved by grace;" that "the Decalogue was abrogated at Calvary;" that "sanctification is a good doctrine but not essential for salvation," etc.] will present from the pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities [who will be

enforcing religious laws] as ordained of God. In *legislative halls and courts of justice*, commandment-keepers will be censured and misrepresented. A false coloring will be given to their words; the worst possible construction will be put upon their motives [by false and bribed witnesses, seconded by spiritually deluded and prejudiced prosecutors and judges].

“The Protestant churches have rejected the clear, scriptural arguments in defense of God’s law, and they long to stop the mouths of those whose faith they cannot overthrow *by the Bible*. Though they [the Protestant churches] blind their eyes to the fact, they are *now adopting a course which will lead to the persecution* of those who conscientiously refuse to do what *the rest of the Christian world are doing*, and acknowledge the claims of the papal Sabbath.

Final Union of Church and State. “The dignitaries of Church and State will unite to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor the Sunday. [At this point it becomes the Biblical mark of the beast, Rev. 13: 11-18]. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments.

The Early Role of Political Corruption. “Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth, and in order to secure public favor, legislators will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance.

Death of Liberty of Conscience. – “Liberty of conscience, which has cost this nation so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. In the soon-coming conflict we shall see exemplified the prophet’s words: ‘And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.’ Rev. 12: 17.

Apostate Protestantism, the Daughters Unites with Church of Rome, the Mother.

“Our land America] is in jeopardy. The time is drawing on when its legislators [Congress] shall so abjure the principles of Protestantism as to give countenance to Romish apostasy. The people for whom God has so marvelously wrought, strengthening them to throw off the galling yoke of popery, will *by a national act* give vigor [life] to corrupt faith of Rome, and thus arouse the tyranny which *only waits for a touch* to start again into cruelty and despotism.

“When Protestant churches shall seek the support of the secular power, thus following the example of that apostate church [the papal church], for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution, then there will be *a national apostasy which will end only in national ruin.*”- *Ibid*, pp. 408-410.

Revelation is the last book of the Bible where its sixty-six books meet and end. Only a very few more prophecies remain to be fulfilled before and after the close of earth’s probation, which no one precisely knows when only that every day that comes and goes brings us closer to it.

Have you been studying the relevant end-time Bible prophecies, as the Bible teaches it, dear friend? “Why should I?” you may reply. Simply this: because earth’s awesome closing events of the great controversy between Christ and Satan and their respective agencies are soon to take place in their divinely-appointed

chronology since *time* prophecy terminated on October 22, 1844. It is almost midway of year 2016, over one hundred seventy-two years since then.

Our intellectual and spiritual understanding of all that God has chosen to reveal to all who are willing to be taught of Him and will search “as for hidden treasure” with a spirit of a child, the books of Daniel and Revelation which will determine our eternal salvation or eternal damnation. That’s how important these books are.

If you haven’t started yet, pray for forgiveness, then grace, wisdom, faith, and strength to do it now. If not now, when? If you persist in conjuring up any more convenient excuses and “pressing priorities” and continue procrastinating, when you finally get down to doing it, you may, by your own careless delay, be numbered among those who will find out too late to escape the snare that holds untold millions at this late hour of earth’s history.

Here is a startling warning from the pen of inspiration based on the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation regarding the character and aims of the Biblical antichrist, the beast of prophecy in the days ahead.

Under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Ellen G. White wrote in 1884 (emphasis mine):

“The Romish Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies [see previous issues quoting news that Pope Francis has apologized for persecution of the Waldenses, etc.] her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; *but she is unchanged.*

“Marvelous in her shrewdness and cunning is the Romish Church. *She can read what is to be. She bides her time, seeing that the Protestant churches are paying her homage in their acceptance of the false sabbath, and that they [the apostate Protestant churches] are preparing to employ the very means which she herself employed in bygone days.* Those who reject the light of truth will yet seek the aid of this *self-styled infallible power* to exalt an institution that originated with her. How readily she will come to the help of Protestants in this work, it is not difficult to conjecture. Who understands better than popery how to deal with those who are disobedient to the [Roman] church?

“The *Christian world* will learn what Romanism really is, *when it is too late* to escape the snare. She is *silently* growing into power [at that time this was written in 1884]. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in *legislative halls*, in the *churches*, and in the *hearts* of men.” (Note these three places!)

Now pay close attention to the following [emphasis mine]:

“Throughout the land she is piling up her lofty and massive structures, *in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated.* She is stealthily and unsuspectingly strengthening her forces to further her own ends

when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is soon to be given her.” – Vol. 4, *Spirit of Prophecy*, “Character and Aims of the Papacy,” ch. 30, p. 397, 1884 , Southern Publishing Asso.

Papal Church’s Persecutions Briefly Repeated in Near Future

Did you take note of that? Instigated by the very Christian churches that originally separated from her in the Old World whose godly founders and faithful followers she desperately tried to wipe out from the face of the earth by employing previously unheard-of manner, means, and devices of persecution, “Her, that is, the Roman Catholic Church’s “former persecutions will be repeated in the secret recesses of the lofty and massive structures she is silently and unsuspectingly piling up throughout the land?”

What are these “lofty and massive structures” if not her magnificent and lavishly decorated cathedrals—places of religious worship, and her ivy-league universities—centers of erudition and learning that the credulous and unsuspecting masses have been deceived into practically venerating! The near fatal “wound” inflicted upon “one of the heads of the beast” by Napoleon’s Republican army under Gen. Berthier, who, most believed then, permanently dismantled the papal states, by arresting Pope Pius VI in 1798 and taking him as captive to France where he died the following year, is already “healed” for all intents and purposes. This is what Revelation 13 prophesied. The Vatican II Ecumenical Council achieved its main goal: One by one, Protestant churches, including the main one that started the Protestant Reformation—the Lutherans-- have abandoned their basic distinctive creeds in favor of reunification of Christianity—of course on terms favoring the papacy.

This sounds incredible, in fact, impossible for the unspeakable former persecutions that characterized the Dark Ages carried out by the terrible engine of the Office of the Inquisition invented by the Roman Catholic Church to quell dissent to her decretals and apostate doctrines, to be repeated even briefly, given the apparent global outcry, outrage, and seemingly iron-clad safeguards instituted by national and international watchdog groups against its repetition.

However, all these, as well-meaning as they are, coming from honest and courageous hearts and minds cannot stop prophecy from being fulfilled in their divinely-appointed time. The closing details and chapters of the great controversy will be played out. What all need to do is to humbly learn, be correspondingly warned, and thus armed with God’s infallible word and divine power to vindicate His character and magnify His law and make it honorable, as He did in His life and teachings.

“History will be repeated. False religion will be exalted. The first day of the week, a common working day, possessing no sanctity whatever, will be set up as the image at Babylon. All nations and tongues and peoples will be commanded to worship this spurious sabbath. This is Satan’s plan to make of no account the day

instituted by God, and given to the world as a memorial of creation. The decree enforcing the worship of this day is to go forth to all the world.” – E. G. White, Vol. 7, E.G. White Bible Commentary, p. 876/ Maranatha 214.

The three divinely-devised agencies for bringing this “great tribulation” to an end. These were (1) a movement, (2) a nation, and (3) two horn-principles, instituted and set in motion by God at their appointed times to fulfill His *dual application* mini-apocalypse recorded by Mathew and Luke given to His first disciples. These forewarned them of the first desolation of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 forty years *after* Christ pronounced it, followed by the Dark Ages of 1260 years starting 538 A.D. when Roman Catholicism became the state religion and its doctrines and institutions were enforced and sustained by the State; its military powers were used against all who would not comply by virtue of conviction of conscience that to do so would be to deny faith in Jesus Christ and the Bible. Freedom and religious liberty were vilified, criminalized, and declared heretical and an abomination by the state church in power. This terrible period sand ended 1260 years later in 1798 A.D. with the “wounding as to death of one of the heads of the beast.” Rev. 13: 3. Jesus prophesied to His disciples at Mount Olivet:

“For then shall be *great tribulation*, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake these days shall be shortened.” Matt. 24: 21, 22. And

“These be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: *and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*” Luke 21: 22-24, K.J.V.

The Movement: Dr. Martin Luther’s nailing of his church history-altering 95 theses on the door of the Church at Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517, sparked the Protestant Reformation, which brought the “*great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*” This terrible persecution waged by the Roman Catholic Church against all who would not yield their conscience to her antichristian, unbiblical decretals and false doctrines during the Dark Ages, as Christ prophesied in Matthew 24 and Luke 21, mercifully abated about a quarter of a century before 1798 when Pope Pius V was taken captive by Napoleon’s army, disbanding the papal states. Then the spiritual “trodding down of Jerusalem”—the persecution and martyrdom of the faithful Sabbath-keeping Christians at that time-- “the times of Gentiles was fulfilled.”

The Nation: “One nation, and only one, meets the specifications of this prophecy; it points unmistakably to the United States of America.”- *Great Controversy*, 440/*Maranatha*, p. 193.

“The Lord has done more for the United States than for any other country upon which the sun shines. Here he provided an asylum for His people, where

they could worship Him according to the dictates of conscience. Here Christianity has progressed in its purity. The life-giving doctrine of the One Mediator between God and man has been freely taught. God designed that *this country should ever remain free for all people to worship Him in accordance with the dictates of conscience. He designed that its civil institutions, in their expansive productions, should represent the freedom of gospel privileges.*

“But the enemy of all righteousness has designs upon God’s purpose for this country. He will bring in enterprises that will lead men to forget that there is a God. *Worldliness and covetousness, which is idolatry*, will prevail through the working of the archdeceiver [Satan], till the law of God, in all its bearings, shall be made void.” – *Ibid*, MS 17, 1906/Maranatha 193.

“I have been shown that Satan is stealing a march upon us. The law of God, through the agency of Satan, is to be made void. In our land of boasted freedom, religious liberty will come to an end.”- *Ibid*, *Evangelism*, p. 236/Marnatha 193.

History will be repeated. “As America, the land of religious liberty, shall *unite* with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example.” – E. G. White, *Maranatha*, p. 193, 214.

“When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the conscience 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 al all intents and purposes, be made void in our land; and *national apostasy will be followed by national ruin.*”-*Ibid*.

NOTE: This is the divine chronology, no longer subject to prophetic time which ended in 1844: national apostasy first, when the law enforcing Sunday worship is enacted, then follows national ruin. Some have this the other way around. This is the reason why all the moral decadence and devastations that follow on the heels of the national apostasy will be blamed on those keeping the seventh-day Sabbath which those keeping the idol-sabbath are actually responsible for.

The Two Horn Principles: As found on “another beast with lamblike horns.” Rev. 13: 11-17. These “horn powers” were Protestantism and Republicanism—the former described by the historian as “a church without a pope,” the latter, “a state without a king”---the twin secrets of America’s power and prosperity since it arose out of the earth,” that is, quietly arising into world prominence from previously unoccupied territory, in stark contrast to the tumultuous and bloody “striving of the sea” in crowded Europe by crowned kingdoms and nations of the Old World under the tyrannical iron-grip the papacy.

“Here is a striking figure of the rise and growth of our own nation. And the lamb-like horns, *emblems of innocence and gentleness*, well represent the character of our government, as expressed in its two fundamental principles, Republicanism and Protestantism.”-*Ibid*, Vol. 4 Spirit of Prophecy, 277.

“As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example.” – E. G. White, *Maranatha*, p. 214.

“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.*” – *Ibid.*

“Nations will be stirred to their very center. Support will be withdrawn from those who proclaim God’s only standard of righteousness [the Decalogue], the only sure test of character. And all who will not bow to the decree of the national councils and obey the national laws to exalt the sabbath instituted by the man of sin [the papacy], to the disregard of God’s holy day, will feel, not the oppressive power of popery alone, but of the Protestant world, the image of the beast.” – Vol. 2 *Selected Messages*, p. 380/*Ibid.*

NOTE: This tells us that there are no *specifically-identified* places yet in any country in the world where “hiding places or “safe retreats” have already been revealed to anyone—not even E.G. White. However, such temporary places will be available then but only God knows when and where such places are, chosen for certain saints *alive* during the brief time of Jacob’s trouble that takes place only *after*, not before the close of earth’s probation. Moreover, there will be *many martyrs* for the cause of truth *before* probation closes. After it, there will be no more need for blood to be spilled to be “seed of the gospel,” for: “He that is righteous will be righteous still; and he that is holy shall be holy still.” The Holy Spirit has fully withdrawn from earth and Christ has already ended His mediatorial work as our merciful High Priest and Judge. Such places of refuge will be guarded by angels. We need to beware of fanaticism and false visions and dreams as well. Notice the following specific testimonies:

“[Isa. 26: 20 quoted]. In the day of fierce trial he will say, ‘Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.’ **Q. What are the chambers in which they are to hide? Ans. “They are the protection of Christ and holy angels.** The people of God are not at this time all in one place. They are in different companies [no longer public churches], and in all parts of the earth.” – *Maranatha*, p. 270.

“During the night a very impressive scene passed before me. There seemed to be great confusion and the conflict of armies. A messenger of the Lord stood before me, and said, ‘Call your household. I will lead you: follow me.’ He led me down a dark passage, through a forest, then through the clefts of mountains, and said, ‘Here you are safe.’ There had been others led to this retreat. The heavenly messenger said, ‘The time of trouble [not the “great tribulation” taught by Futurism!] has come as a thief in the night, as the Lord had warned you it would come.’” – *MS 153, 1905/Maranatha*, p. 270.

“In the time of trouble just before the coming of Christ, the righteous will be preserved through the ministration of angels; but there will be no security for the transgressor of God’s law. Angels cannot then protect those who are disregarding one of the divine precepts [specially the 4th commandment].”

Many Martyrs Before Probation Closes. – “The two armies will stand distinct and separate, and this distinction will be so marked that many who shall be convinced of truth will come on the side of God’s commandment-keeping people. When this grand work is to take place in the battle, prior to the last closing conflict, many will be imprisoned, many will flee for their lives from cities and towns, and *many will be martyrs* for Christ’s sake in standing defense of the truth.” – *Maranatha*, p. 199.

No more Martyrs after Probation Closes. “If the blood of Christ’s faithful witnesses were shed at this time, it would *not*, like the blood of martyrs, be as seed sown to yield a harvest for God. Their fidelity would not be a testimony to convince others of the truth [as did Abel, Stephen, Paul, the Twelve, Waldsenses, Albigenses, Vaudois, etc.]; for the obdurate heart has beaten back the waves of mercy until they return no more. *If the righteous were now left to fall a prey to their enemies, it would be a triumph for the prince of darkness.*” – Ibid, p. 277.

“In the closing period of earth’s history the Lord will work mightily in behalf of those who stand steadfastly for the right [who are still alive by then]. In the *midst* of the time of trouble ---trouble such as has not been since there was a nation [Dan. 12: 1, 2]---His chosen ones [the 144, 000] will stand unmoved. Satan with all the hosts of evil cannot destroy the weakest of God’s saints. Angels that excel in strength will protect them, and in their behalf Jehovah will reveal Himself as ‘God of gods,’ able to save to the uttermost those who have put their trust in Him.” – Ibid, *Patriarchs & Prophets*, p. 236/
Maranatha, p. 270.

The Time of Jacob’s Trouble in the Seven Last Plagues

“[Jer. 30: 7 quoted]. I saw that the four angels [of Revelation 7] would hold the four winds until Jesus’ work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them [for refusing to bow to their idol-sabbath], and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed. *A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob’s trouble.*” – Ibid, *Early Writings*, pp. 36, 37/Mara 272.

“The Little Company.” – “As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God’s people in the time of trouble. And as he accused Jacob, he will urge his accusations against the people of God. he numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. He sees that holy angels are guarding them, and he infers that their sins have been pardoned; *but he does not know that their cases have been decided in the sanctuary above.* He has an accurate knowledge of the sins which has tempted them to commit, and he presents these before God in the most exaggerated light, representing this people to be just as deserving as himself of exclusion from the favor of God. He declares that the Lord cannot in justice forgive their sins and yet destroy him and his angels. He claims them as his prey and demands that they be given into his hands to destroy.

“As Satan accuses the people of God [the 144,00 at this time] on account of their sins, the Lord permits him to try them to the uttermost “The time of trouble is the crucible that is to bring out Christlike characters. It is designed to lead the people of God to renounce Satan and his temptations.” – *Maranatha*, pp. 272, 273.

(To be continued next month)