

While We Were Sleeping

I. “While Men Slept...” – Matthew 13:24-25

A. A scriptural warning: (Samson-Jg. 16; Disciples sleeping-Matt. 26:38-45

Gethsemane a parallel for us! – “This was not a deep sleep. They were in a drowse. They had a limited sense of their Lord’s suffering and anguish. In tenderness Jesus stood for a moment bending over them, and regarding them with mingled feelings of love and pity. In these sleeping disciples He sees a representation of a sleeping church. When they should be watching, they are asleep.” (Sufferings of Christ, pp. 19, 20). {5BC 1104.2}

B. A message for us at the end – Matthew 25:1-13 (esp. vs. 5)

October 2, 1868, I was shown the state of God’s professed people. Many of them were in great darkness, yet seemed to be insensible of their true condition. The sensibilities of a large number seemed to be benumbed in regard to spiritual and eternal things, while their minds seemed all awake to their worldly interests. Many were cherishing idols in their hearts and were practicing iniquity which separated them from God and caused them to be bodies of darkness. I saw but few who stood in the light, having discernment and spirituality to discover these stumbling blocks and remove them out of the way. Men who stand in very responsible positions at the heart of the work are asleep. Satan has paralyzed them in order that his plans and devices may not be discerned, while he is active to ensnare, deceive, and destroy. 2T 439

C. About this series of messages: Final developments which have taken place “While We Were Sleeping”. Things which reveal we are much further down the stream of time than many ever imagined!

II. The Making of the Image of the Beast – Revelation 13:15

A. A Review of the rise of the United States – Revelation 13:11

(Raises a question: How could the following events come to pass? Their must be a dismantling of the Liberty assured in the U.S. Constitution!)

Examples of demise of constitution

“2 Federal appeals courts overturn government actions taken under Patriot Act. The Act was vigorously opposed by numerous civil rights groups, especially the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), who warned that the Act was constitutionally defective and represented a broad attack on many of the traditional civil liberties enjoyed in the U.S.”

“The implications are huge and the Act can be used to prosecute political dissidents of many stripes. The Act potentially violates at least six of the ten original Bill of Rights: the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 13th Amendment. It grants broad new powers to law enforcement and permits law enforcement officials to side-step or avoid entirely many traditional controls on the surveillance, investigation, arrest, and prosecution of civilians residing in the United States.” Jim Cornehl (For more information on Jim Cornehl, see http://www.uta.edu/library/cornehl/the_usa_patriot_act_and_censorship.pdf)

“The chilling effect of the Act on free speech and political dissent has been felt already. Individuals have been questioned by the FBI about their political beliefs for being openly critical of a possible war against Iraq. In San Francisco, a 60-year-old retiree remarked at his local gym that he thought any war with Iraq was not just about fighting terrorists, but about corporate profits and oil. He promptly received a visit at home from the FBI with questions about his political beliefs.

The FBI paid a call on a North Carolina college student for displaying an “un-American poster” in her own home. The poster in question was critical of President Bush’s stand on capital punishment while serving as governor of Texas. While there the FBI agents asked the student if she had any pro-Taliban materials.

Other low ranking quasi-law enforcement officials have eagerly joined in the suppression of individual First Amendment rights since the passage of the Act. Recently, in a shopping mall in Guilderland, New York, a 61-year-old lawyer and his son were wearing T-shirts that read “Peace On Earth” and “Give Peace A Chance.” They were ordered by mall security guards to remove the offending shirts or leave the mall. The lawyer refused and was charged with trespassing.” Jim Cornehl

“...The main features of a U.S. police state are already in place and it will take a major groundswell of public opposition to undo them.” Jim Cornehl, Attorney and prof. of law

B. The Bible Reveals a Conspiracy – Revelation 13:12, & 1-10

C. Evidence of a Roman Catholic Plot to destroy American Liberty

From the book: “Fifty Years in the Church of Rome”, by Charles Chiniquy

“Long before I was ordained a priest, I knew that my Church was the most implacable enemy of this republic. My professors of philosophy, history, and theology had been unanimous in telling me that the principles and laws of the Church of Rome were absolutely antagonistic to the laws and principles which are the foundation stones of the Constitution of the United States.”

1st. The most sacred principle of the United States Constitution is the equality of every citizen before the law. But the fundamental principle of the Church of Rome is the denial of that equality.

2nd. Liberty of conscience is proclaimed by the United States, a most sacred principle which every citizen must uphold, even at the price of his blood. But liberty of conscience is declared by all the popes and councils of Rome, a most godless, unholy, and diabolical thing, which every good Catholic must abhor and destroy at any cost.

3rd. The American Constitution assures the absolute independence of the civil from the ecclesiastical or church power; but the Church of Rome declares, through all her pontiffs and councils, that such independence is an impiety and revolt against God.

4th. The American Constitution leaves every man free to serve God according to the dictates of his conscience; but the Church of Rome declares that no man has ever had such a right, and that the pope alone can know and say what man must believe and do.

5th. The Constitution of the United States denies the right in any body to punish any other for differing from him in religion. But the Church of Rome says that she has the right to punish with the confiscation of their goods, or the penalty of death, those who differ in faith from the pope.

6th. The United States have established schools allover their immense territories, where they invite the people to send their children, that they may cultivate their intelligence and become good and useful citizens. But the Church of Rome has publicly cursed all those schools, and forbidden their children to attend them, under pain of excommunication in this world and damnation in the next.

7th. The Constitution of the United States is based on the principle that the people are the primary source of all civil power. But hundred of times, the Church of Rome has proclaimed that this principle is impious and heretical. She says that “all government must rest upon the foundation of the Catholic faith; with the pope alone as the legitimate and infallible source and interpreter of law.”

“I could cite many other facts, proving the Church of Rome to be an irreconcilable enemy of the United States; but it would be too long. Rome is a viper, sooner or later that viper will bite and kill this republic.” P. 284

Quotations from Catholic Sources:

“The Church is of necessity intolerant. Heresy she endures when and where she must, but she hates it and directs all her energies to destroy it.”

“If Catholics ever gain a sufficient numerical majority in this country, religious freedom is at an end. So our enemies say, so we believe.” The Shepherd of the Valley, official journal of the Bishop of St. Louis, Nov. 23, 1851

“No man has a right to choose his religion.” New York Freeman, official journal of Bishop Hughes, Jan. 26, 1852

“The Church...does not, and cannot accept, or in any degree favor, liberty in the Protestant sense of liberty.” Catholic World, April 1870

“The Catholic Church is the medium and channel through which the will of God is expressed. While the State has rights, she has them only in virtue and by permission of the Superior Authority, and that authority can be expressed only through the Church.” Catholic World, July, 1870

“Religious Liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect without peril to the Catholic Church.” (O’Connor, Bishop of Pittsburgh.)

”There is, ere long, to be a state religion in this country, and that state religion is to be the Roman Catholic.

1st. The Roman Catholic is to wield his vote for the purpose of securing Catholic ascendancy in this country.

2nd. All legislation must be governed by the will of God, unerringly indicated by the pope.

3rd. Education must be controlled by Catholic authorities, and under education the opinions of the individual and the utterances of the press are included, and many opinions are to be forbidden by the secular arm, under the authority of the Church, even to war and bloodshed.” (Hecker, Catholic World, July, 1870.)

“It was proposed that all religious persuasions should be free and their worship publicly exercised. But we have rejected this article as contrary to the canons and councils of the first Catholic Church.” (Pope Pius VII, Encyclical, 1808)

“Undoubtedly it is the intention of the pope to possess this country. In this intention he is aided by the Jesuits, and all the Catholic prelates and priests.” (Brownson’s Review, May, 1864)

“No good government can exist without religion, and there can be no religion without an Inquisition, which is wisely designed for the promotion and protection of the true faith.” (Boston Pilot, official journal of the Bishop.)

“In a very near future, if God does not miraculously prevent it, those laws of dark deeds and blood will cause the prosperity, the rights, the education, and the liberties of this too confident nation to be buried under a mountain of smoking and bloody ruins. On the top of that mountain, Rome will raise her throne and plant her victorious banners.”

“Then she will sing her Te Deums and shout her shouts of joy, as she did when she heard the lamentations and cries of desolation of the millions of martyrs in the capitals and great cities of Europe.” Fifty Years in the Church of Rome, Chiniquy, p. 291

Another Remarkable Quote...

“If the liberties of the American people are ever destroyed, they will fall by the hands of the Catholic clergy.”
- Lafayette

D. Ecumenical Movement

Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium – 25 Page document developed by Protestant Chuck Colson and former Protestant Richard John Neuhaus. Signed by 40 well-known Evangelical and Catholic leaders on March 29, 1994

“After nearly four centuries of division and hostility, Protestants and Catholics have taken an important step toward unity. Forty key Evangelical and Catholic leaders signed a statement at the Institute on Religion and Public Life in New York City, on March 29, 1994, urging their followers to accept each other as Christians, put aside differences and contend for common civil causes.” Christian American, May/June 1994

REGARDING A UNITY THAT ALLOWS FOR DIVERSITY...

“The pope doesn’t want everyone to become Latin Catholics.... To achieve unity, for example, does not mean

that everyone has to celebrate the Eucharist the same way. With Eastern churches, especially, you're talking about a great diversity liturgically, and that's just fine. The Pope does use the term 'hierarchy of doctrine'.... Obviously, some teachings are more important than others, and there has to be agreement on those essential points, while leaving considerable latitude on other points that are less essential to the faith." Our Sunday Visitor, January 14, 1996

GOALS OF ECT...

"Christians individually and the church corporately also have a responsibility for the right ordering of civil society.... In the exercise of these public responsibilities there has been in recent years a growing convergence and cooperation between Evangelicals and Catholics. We thank God for the discovery of one another in contending for a common cause. ...We promise one another that we will work to deepen, build upon, and expand this pattern of convergence and cooperation. Together we contend for the truth that politics, law, and culture must be secured by moral truth." ECT Document

Discussion of "Sheep stealing" arising from a mass exodus out of Catholicism into protestant faiths. In Brazil alone, over 500,000 people a year were leaving the Catholic church and becoming protestant. Thus the following found in ECT:

"In view of the large number of non-Christians in the world and the enormous challenge of our common evangelistic task, it is neither theologically legitimate nor a prudent use of resources for one Christian community to proselytize among active adherents of another Christian community." ECT Document

"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 to the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result." Great Controversy, p. 445

E. The Final test – Sunday Law

"While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord's people may not have mercy or justice. The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite with the movement do not themselves see whither the under-current is tending. Its professions are mild, and apparently Christian; but when it shall speak, it will reveal the spirit of the dragon." EG White, The Watchman, paragraph 11, Dec. 25, 1906

From "The Roman Catechism" (1985) [John Paul II called it "A work of the first rank as a summary of Christian teaching." Silvio Cardinal Oddi, prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Clergy, wrote concerning this catechism as follows: "The United States of America holds a special place in our heart, and we believe that "The Roman Catechism" will contribute to give the faithful in this great country a true *summa* of the main truths of the Catholic faith." (Quoted in Sunday's Coming, Reid, p. 89)] Here's the quote:

Under the heading:

"Cooperation by the Civil Authorities Regarding This Commandment"

"The civil authorities should be urged to cooperate with the church in maintaining and strengthening this public

worship of God, and to support with their own authority the regulations set down by the church's pastors. ...For it is only in this way that the faithful will understand why it is Sunday and not the Sabbath day that we now keep holy."

From "The Catechism of the Catholic Church" (1994) [The first fully revised and updated edition of the official catechism of the Catholic Church since 1566. First unabridged edition of the Catechism ever translated and printed in English. 800 pages in length, sold 2.3 million copies in U.S. first 6 months – 10 million worldwide. Also has imprimatur of Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger.

Par # 2175 – "Sunday – fulfillment of the Sabbath. Sunday is expressly distinguished from the Sabbath which it follows chronologically every week; for Christians its ceremonial observance replaces that of the Sabbath."

Par #2190 – "The Sabbath, which represented the completion of the first creation, has been replaced by Sunday which recalls the new creation, has been replaced by Sunday which recalls the new creation inaugurated by the Resurrection of Christ."

Par #2188 – "In respecting religious liberty and the common good of all, Christians should seek recognition of Sundays and the Church's holy days as legal holidays."

"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." Maranatha, p. 193

First Sunday Law:

"Let all judges and all city people and all tradesmen rest upon the verable day of the sun. But let those dwelling in the country freely and with full liberty attend to the culture of their fields; since it frequently happens that no other day is so fit for the sowing of grain or the planting of vines; hence the favorable time should not be allowed to pass, lest the provisions of heaven be lost.

Given the seventh of March, Crispus and Constantine being consuls, each for the second time (321)" Enacted by Roman Emperor Constantine in 321 A.D.

III. Conclusion: Wake Up! – Romans 13:11-14

- A. We have a more sure word of Prophecy!
- B. Watch – Mark 13:33-37
- C. Prepare to meet God!