

The Final Abomination of Desolation

Christ's warning to His disciples of the abomination of desolation found in the gospels was three-fold in its meaning. The first would be the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Roman army, the second was the self exalting, persecuting power of the papacy during the 1260 years of the predicted reign of the antichrist, and the last abomination will be when the papacy again exalts itself and persecutes the saints bringing the final destruction of the world at the end.

As I stated in "The Second Abomination of Desolation of Matthew 24", I believe it is worthy of more than just a passing recognition that the first abomination of desolation was associated with the Feast of Tabernacles, and the second abomination of desolation was associated with a blood moon.

Let us watch and see what will develop with the visit from the pope this September 23, 2015 which just so happens to coincide with a blood moon as well as with the Feast of Tabernacles. Interestingly, he is pushing for Sunday to be set aside as a family day. Could this be the subtly beginning of the enforced worship we read about in Revelation 13 connected with a death decree? It will be the first time in America's history that a pope has addressed Congress. What we have here is church and state. Sounds as if prophecy is fulfilling before our very eyes.

We shall discover in this study that the worship of the sun is the greatest abomination. Could this be the final abomination? When will the desolation come?

Let's now look at the final abomination of desolation predicted in Matthew 24. Christ admonished us to study the abomination of desolation in order to understand the final events before His return to gather His saints. There will be found two classes of people—the saved and the lost. This last abomination involves the whole world, every one living will either be under Christ's government or in rebellion against Him.

Matthew 24:14 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. 15) When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17) Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18) Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19) And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 20) But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day: 21) For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22) And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Mark's account adds the fact that the abomination stands "where it ought not."

Mark 13:14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,)

Matthew 24 is Christ's summary of future events leading up to His return. After He returned to Heaven, He sent His angel to John relaying the same events only in greater detail. It is of great significance that these messages found in Revelation 14:6-12 are the final messages of warning and mercy given to the world just before Christ returns as described in Revelation 14:14-20. John also prophesies of a global preaching as a witness (a glory to God) and then the end will come. (See Revelation 14:14-20).

Revelation 14:6 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, 7) 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. 8) 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. 9) 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, 10) 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: 11) And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. 12) Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. 13) And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Below is a table comparing some of the elements found in the words of Christ to His disciples in Matthew 24, and John's record of the same event as found in the prophecy of Revelation 14.

Matthew 24	Revelation 14
The gospel sent into all the world (Matt 24:14)	The everlasting gospel sent into all the world (Rev 14:6)
The abomination (Matt 24:15)	Babylon is fallen, is fallen (Rev 14:8)
The desolation, the result of the abomination (Matt 24:15)	The desolation, the result of the abomination (Rev 14:9-11)
Reference to the Sabbath (Matt 24:20)	A call to return to worship of the Creator in which the Sabbath is a sign (Rev 14:7; Ex 20:8-11; 31:16, 17)
A time of trouble for the saints (Matt 24:21, 22)	A time of trouble for the saints (Rev 14:13)
The end of the world and return of Christ (Matt 24:30, 31)	The end of the world and return of Christ (Rev 14:14-20)

In this battle between Christ and Satan, we find that Christ has a pure church not only preaching the everlasting gospel, but living it.

Here is a brief summary of the first angel's message of the pure church:

- Fear God, honor Him by obeying His commandments.
- Give glory to Him by reflecting His character which can only be obtained by faith.
- The hour of His judgment is going on now. Not only are we being judged by our works, but more importantly, God is on trial. Will His judgments be found fair and just? Can we truly have faith in God's kingdom principles, His mercy and His justice?

- When He comes it will be with His reward. The dead are really dead—if Christ comes with His reward, and the judgment happens before He comes, then people have not received their rewards at the time of death but are sleeping in the graves awaiting the resurrection.
- Worship Him as the Creator by remembering the Sabbath to keep it holy.

Satan has his church as well, known as the apostate church, the great whore. This church not only rejects the messages given by the true church, but it teaches its own counterfeit abominable messages counteracting the truth.

Revelation 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14) For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Here is a summary of the characteristics of the fallen, apostate church.

- Babylon is fallen because it has rejected the three angel's messages and teaches exactly the opposite of these messages.
- Just as ancient Israel married God but apostatized and became a harlot and met with judgment, so modern Babylon is identified in Revelation 17 as a whore, a woman, an apostate church who also has committed fornication and meets with judgment.
- This woman sits or controls many nations being a universal or worldwide church.
- It is a church with political power as it fornicates with the kings of the earth.
- This system has daughters that were born some time in her history because she is a mother of harlots.
- This harlot has a cup of wine full of abominations and fornications that she feeds to the kings as well as the inhabitants of the earth who become drunk and confused.
- This church is decked with gold, silver, and precious stones, being very wealthy.
- This church is guilty of shedding the blood of God's people.
- The reason that Babylon falls is because she made all nations drink of the wine. She teaches just the opposite of the three angel's messages.

Revelation 14:8 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.

Revelation 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 3) For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

Revelation 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2) With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.... 4) And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

So let's look at what the Scripture teaches are abominations. The first that we shall look at is idolatry.

Deuteronomy 7:25 The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God. 26) Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.

As we study the Scriptures regarding this apostate church, we've discovered that it thinks to change God's laws. We find in some of her teaching sources that she has simply eliminated the 2nd commandment forbidding the making or worshipping of idols. In order to still have ten commandments, they have split the 10th into two.

The second commandment is prohibiting the making and worshipping of images.

Exodus 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5) Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Not only has this church eliminated the second commandment, they have adopted the pagan idols, christianized them and bow down before them, praying to them for mercies and favors.

How does God look upon them that try to do away with His law?

Proverbs 28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

Let's look at the next abomination, occultic practices, today known as astrology, zodiac signs, crystal ball gazing, palm reading, etc. The foundation of every occultic practice is the belief that the dead are alive and can be communicated with. The Scriptures teach that the belief that the dead are not really dead is an abomination.

Deuteronomy 18:9 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. 10) There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11) Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 12) For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

The reason why the apostate church is so rich is partly from the sale of the graven images, so of course she would want to promote the lie that the dead are alive and that the dead saints and popes can hear your prayers and bless you.

What is an abomination? Strong's Hebrew concordance defines it as such:

Hebrew 8251 from 8262; **disgusting**, i.e. **filthy**; especially idolatrous or (concretely) an **idol**:—abominable filth (idol,-ation), detestable (thing).

8262 a primitive root; **to be filthy**, i.e. (intensively) **to loathe, pollute**:—abhor, make abominable, have in abomination, detest, x utterly.

We may not all in this day and age actually be bowing down to idols to worship, but as we shall see in the following quotes, we may be just as guilty of idolatry as those who actually do bow down to idols.

RH 3-15, 1906 "Self-dependence Is Idolatry.--Idolaters are condemned by the Word of God. Their folly consists in trusting in self for salvation, in bowing down to the works of their own hands. God classes as idolaters those who trust in their own wisdom, their own devising, depending for success on their riches

and power, striving to strengthen themselves by alliance with men whom the world calls great, but who fail to discern the binding claims of His law.”

Does the everlasting gospel teach that we can save ourselves or does it teach that there is only one way of salvation and that is through Jesus Christ? When we believe that we can save ourselves, the glory goes to self and not to God. Is this not idolatry? Can we be saved by our own works such as, through pilgrimages, confessing our sins to another human, paying so much money, lighting so many candles, penance, etc.?

Luke 16:15 And He said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

The prayers of those who try to do away with the law are an abomination, but it is also an abomination to do away with the grace of God by justifying ourselves believing that our works can save us. So any church that teaches that the laws were nailed to the cross or teaches salvation by works is characterized by this harlot that gives wine to the nations.

Not only has the whore attempted to change God's law, but through the wine that the kings and the inhabitants of the earth have drank, there is an alliance, a one world order, a one world government who as well *“fail to discern the binding claims of God's law.”*

“God classes as idolaters those who trust in their own wisdom, their own devising, depending for success on their riches and power, striving to strengthen themselves by alliance with men whom the world calls great, but who fail to discern the binding claims of His law.” RH 3-15, 1906

In order to accomplish the final abomination involving the whole world which will be forced to worship this harlot, there must first be in place a one world government that will be able to enforce the one world decree to worship.

Let's look at the abomination of adultery which is going to the nations for support to fulfill her agenda. As in the type, so in the antitype. In the context of Jeremiah 13 we find that Israel, God's church, has had illicit relations with all the surrounding nations. These nations are named in Ezekiel 16 and 23, Assyria, Chaldea, Egypt, etc.

Jeremiah 13:27 I have seen thine adulteries, and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom, and thine abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem! wilt thou not be made clean? when shall it once be?

So any church that seeks support from the state is committing an abomination. It was so in the days of Pagan Rome at the crucifixion, it was so in the dark ages during the 1260 years of papal persecution, and so will it be in the final abomination.

The first angel's message teaches that we should give glory to God. One of the ways we do this is by obeying the laws of health.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Where do we find some of the laws of health? Can we eat anything we want? The Scriptures teach that eating certain things are an abomination. We find the list of abominable things in Leviticus 11 as well as in Deuteronomy 14. God starts out with a command not to eat any abominable thing.

Deuteronomy 14:3 Thou shalt not eat any abominable thing.

Jesus prayed that we might glorify Him as He had glorified His Father in all things. He revealed the Father's character perfectly. We know that Christ's church will perfectly reproduce His character and then He can come.

COL 69 "When the fruit is brought forth, immediately He putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.' Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own."

The Bible speaks of another abomination, that of sacrificing your children to Molech.

Jeremiah 32:35 And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

Although there is not a church today that practices this, the teaching that God's wrath needs to be appeased by sacrifice does exist. The teaching that God throws the wicked into the fire to burn them forever and ever is an abomination. Not only does it destroy the character of God, but it also misrepresents the nature of sin. The Bible is clear.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: 14) But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15) Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. 16) Do not err, my beloved brethren. 17) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

The shedding of innocent blood is an abomination. Any system who tries to force beliefs at the point of death is committing an abomination. Jerusalem was guilty of shedding innocent blood, and so is the great whore in Revelation 17.

Ezekiel 22:2 Now, thou son of man, wilt thou judge, wilt thou judge the bloody city? yea, thou shalt shew her all her abominations.

Revelation 17:6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

So let's review. What are the abominations that we have looked at?

- Making graven images, (or adopting them from the pagans)
- Bowing down before the graven images
- The occultic belief that you are alive when you die
- The idea that you do not have to keep the law
- The idea that you can save yourselves by your works
- The union of church and state
- The belief you may eat what God has cursed
- The belief that God is a wrathful God that needs to be appeased and will burn the wicked forever
- The belief that the church should destroy those who are not in harmony with her beliefs (Could this belief have come from the misunderstanding of God's wrath?)

We have left the greatest abomination for the last consideration. Ezekiel gives us some insight into the history of Israel's repeated abominations and her desolations.

Ezekiel 20:12 Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them. 13) But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my Sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them. 14) But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight I brought them out. 15) Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands; 16) Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my Sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols.

Ezekiel 8 describes abomination after abomination each one worse than the last, with the greatest abomination last.

Ezekiel 8:6 He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations.

Ezekiel 8:9 And He said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. 10) So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about.

Not only were they worshipping idols, but they were also weeping for Tammuz, the sun god.

Ezekiel 8:14 Then He brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. 15) Then said He unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these.

Ezekiel 8:16 And He brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. 17) Then He said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? . . .

Are there sun worshippers today? Is there any difference between worshipping the sun and worshipping on the day of the sun? Who made the sun? God did. Did He make it for worship? What happens if you convert it into an object of worship? It is idolatry and idolatry is an abomination.

Who made the first day of the week? God did. Did He make it for worship? What happens if you convert it into a day of worship? It is idolatry and idolatry is an abomination. This was the day that pagans worshipped in honor of their God the sun god. This day was celebrated long before Christ ever came to this earth, died and was resurrected.

God had warned against idolatry as well as sun worship.

Deuteronomy 4:15 Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: 16)

Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, 17) The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, 18) The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth: 19) And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

Why does God desire that we not worship any other god or idol? Is He self-exalting as Satan suggested? Absolutely not, He knows the gods of wood, stone, or the sun cannot save us and that is what His desire for us is, our salvation.

Hosea 13:4 Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no saviour beside me.

Not only does He desire to save us, but He realizes that we will rise no higher than our conception of Him and when we make and worship idols that diminish His godhead and power, we will never partake of His divine nature.

1 Peter 1:15 But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16) Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Are these abominations the opposite of the three angel's messages?

Is it glorifying to God to worship idols? Does the first angel's message call us to keep God's law? Does the first angel's message announce the everlasting gospel which is salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and does not include salvation by works? Does the first angel's message call for glorifying God by taking care of our bodies? Does the second angel's message warn against the fornication of church and state?

God calls for His people to come out of Babylon, out of these churches who have been deceived by the wine, the false teachings, the abominations.

Revelation 18:1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. 2) And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 3) For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. 4) And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. 5) For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

What God commands He is well able to perform in us—according to our faith! Should we continue in any of these abominations, we shall surely meet with desolation for the Bible is clear:

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Proverbs 26:2 As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

In other words, just as you can count on birds wandering and flying, so you can count on the fact that if there is no cause, there is no curse.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Let's look at how the final desolation comes about in consequence of the abomination. We read that the desolation is being held back until God's servants are sealed in their representation of His character.

Mar 266 "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. Rev. 7:4

If holy angels of God are holding back the winds of destruction, how can it be that the destroying winds are holy angels as well? Do holy angels oppose one another?

"Angels are belting the world, refusing Satan his claims to supremacy, made because of the vast multitude of his adherents. We hear not the voices, we see not with the natural sight the work of these angels, but their hands are linked about the world, and with sleepless vigilance they are keeping the armies of Satan at bay till the sealing of God's people shall be accomplished.

"John sees the elements of nature—earthquake, tempest, and political strife—represented as being held by four angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go. There is the safety of God's church. The angels of God do His bidding, holding back the winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree, until the servants of God should be sealed in their foreheads."

4SP 440 "The apostle John in vision heard a loud voice in Heaven exclaiming, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Fearful are the scenes which call forth this exclamation from the heavenly voice. The wrath of Satan increases as his time grows short, and his work of deceit and destruction reaches its culmination in the time of trouble. God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation, and the Lord withdraws His protection, and leaves them to the mercy of the leader they have chosen. Satan will have power over those who have yielded themselves to his control, and he will plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old."

GC 614 "When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation; the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one. Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old."

"A single angel destroyed all the first-born of the Egyptians and filled the land with mourning. When David offended against God by numbering the people, one angel caused that terrible destruction by which his sin was punished. The same destructive power exercised by holy angels when God commands, will be exercised by evil angels when He permits. There are forces now ready, and only waiting the divine permission, to spread desolation everywhere."

MR 1081 "I was shown that the time was in the near future that these whom God had warned and reprov'd and given great light but they would not correct their ways and follow the light, He would remove from them that heavenly protection which had preserved them from Satan's cruel power; the Lord would surely leave them to themselves to follow the judgment and counsels of their own wisdom; they would be simply left to themselves, and the protection of God be withdrawn from them, and they would not be shielded from the workings of Satan; that none of finite judgment and foresight can have any power to conceive of the care God has exercised through His angels over the children of men in their travels, in their own houses, in their eating and drinking. Wherever they are, his eye is upon them. They are preserved from a thousand dangers, all to them unseen. Satan has laid snares, but the Lord is constantly at work to save His people from them.

"But from those who have no sense of the goodness and mercy of God, {those} who refuse His merciful warnings, who reject His counsels to reach the highest standard of Bible requirements, who do despite to the Spirit of grace, the Lord would remove His protecting power. I was shown that Satan would entangle and then destroy, if he could, the souls he had tempted. God will bear long, but there is a bound to His mercy, a line which marks His mercy and His justice.

"I was shown that the judgments of God would not come directly out from the Lord upon them, but in this way: They place themselves beyond His protection. He warns, corrects, reprov's, and points out the only path of safety; then if those who have been the objects of His special care will follow their own course independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated warnings, if they choose their own way, then He does not commission his angels to prevent Satan's decided attacks upon them. It is Satan's power that is at work at sea and on land, bringing calamity and distress, and sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey. And storm and tempest both by sea and land will be, for Satan has come down in great wrath. He is at work. He knows his time is short and, if he is not restrained, we shall see more terrible manifestations of his power that we have ever dreamed of."

Summary:

RH 3-15, 1906 "Self-dependence Is Idolatry.--Idolaters are condemned by the Word of God. Their folly consists in trusting in self for salvation, in bowing down to the works of their own hands. God classes as idolaters those who trust in their own wisdom, their own devising, depending for success on their riches and power, striving to strengthen themselves by alliance with men whom the world calls great, but who fail to discern the binding claims of His law."

As we see those who claim to be Christ's and are not, and who fail to discern the binding claims of the law, ally themselves with one another, we know that the abomination is being committed and that soon the desolation will come. But more importantly, are we idolaters, are we trusting in ourselves rather than trusting in God? Will we be among those who are sealed with the spirit of antichrist, the self exalting forceful nature, as depicted in the following verses,

John 16:1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. 2) They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. 3) And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

Or will we be sealed with the Spirit of the Lord?

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

The true essence of idolatry is self-trust. The Jews couldn't see it. **Will we?**