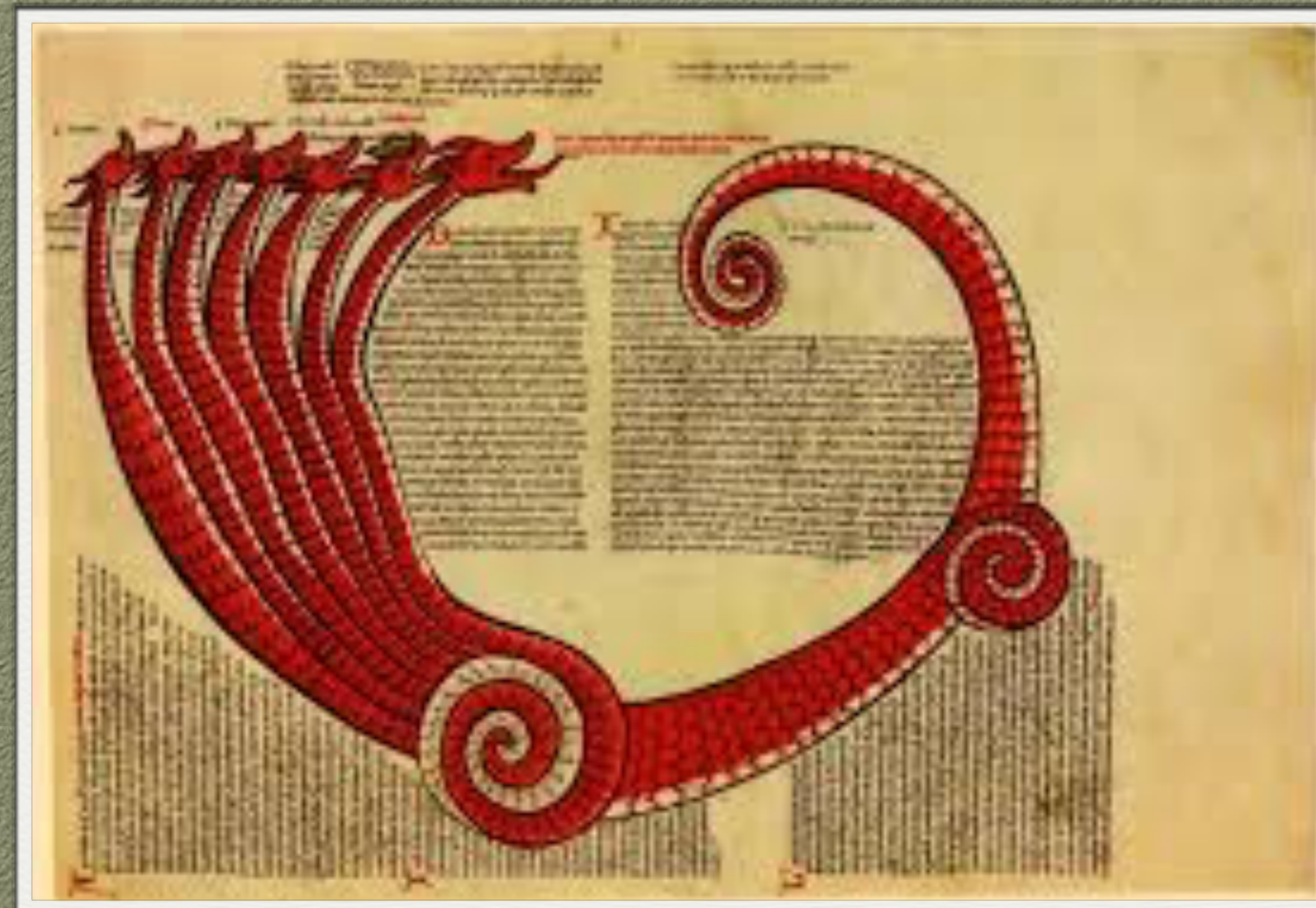


SOLA SCRIPTURA: HOW TO INTERPRET PROPHECY

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THE HERITAGE OF BIBLE PROPHECY

- **“God’s workers today constitute the connecting link between the former workers, the church of history, and the church that is to be called out from the world and prepared to meet their Lord.... From age to age the light which God has for the world has been imparted to the church militant.... All the excellencies that have come through the belief of the truth from past ages to the present time, are to be treated with the utmost respect” (E. G. White, Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 7, 1897, p. 11).**

GOD'S LIGHT ON PROPHETIC HISTORY THROUGHOUT CHRISTIAN HISTORY

- **Light on the Early Christians**
- **Light on the Middle Ages**
- **Light on the Protestant
Reformation**
- **Light on the Post-Reformation
Era**
- **Light in the time of the end**

PROPHECY AMONG THE EARLY CHRISTIANS



SIGNS BEFORE JESUS' RETURN

- **Apostle Paul: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8**
- **Conclusion**
 - **Before the Second Advent there will come an apostasy by a power called the man of sin or lawlessness**



WHEN WILL THE MAN OF SIN APPEAR?

- **2 Thessalonians 2:6-8**

- **“You know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness [iniquity] is already at work: only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming” NKJ**

End of Man of Sin; when?

VIEW OF THE EARLY CHRISTIANS

- **Identity of the Man of Sin**
 - **Future Antichrist**
 - **He is a person who opposes God**
 - **He acts in the place God**
 - **Little horn (Dan 7) and harlot (Rev 17)**
 - **He will persecute God's people for 3.5 times/years**
- **Identity of the restraining power**
 - **The Roman Empire**
- **The time of the Man of Sin**
 - **Has full authority over the church after the fall of the Roman Empire for 1260 days**



EARLY CHRISTIAN VIEWS ABOUT DANIEL 7

- **The expectations of the early Christians**
 - **The 4 beasts are the empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome**
 - **Rome would be divided into 10 kingdoms**
 - **Afterward the little horn power, the Antichrist, would arise, uproot 3 kingdoms, and last till the end of the world**
 - **The little horn dominates God's people for "a time, and times, and half a time" or 3 1/2 times or years. It would think to change times and laws.**

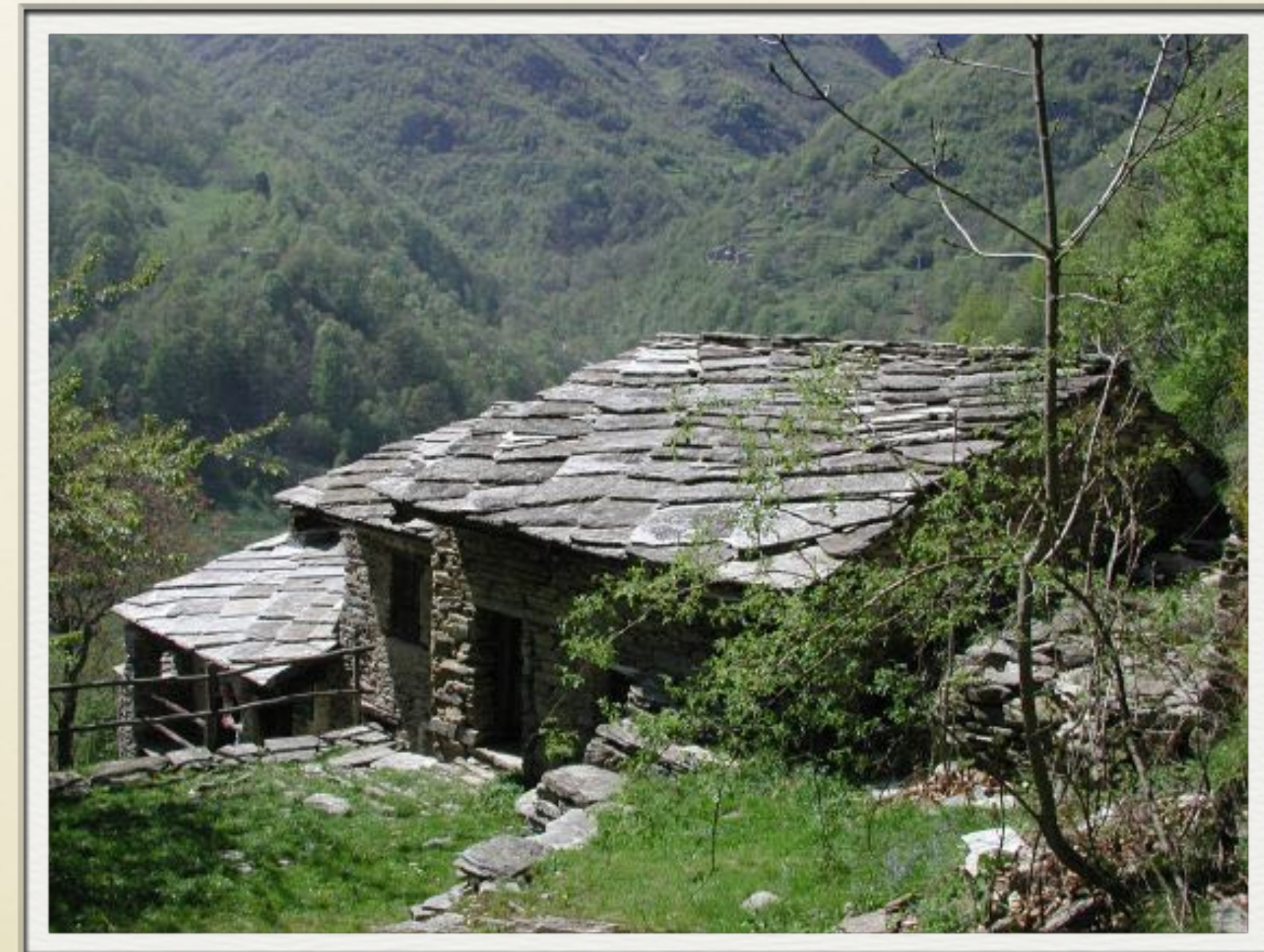


RISE OF THE MAN OF SIN

- **Nature of the apostasy and its persecution**
- **In the 4th century Emperor Constantine favored the Catholic body of Christians which became the most powerful group of Christians**
- **Major changes in the 6th century—Unity of Church State**
- **Emperor Justinian I makes the pope head of all churches of Christendom and the corrector of heretics.**
- **Catholicism: Salvation is obtained through works and the clergy**
- **Union of Church and State led to expansion of Catholicism through armies**
- **Growing persecution of those who question the Catholic church**

RISE OF PROTEST IN THE MIDDLE AGES

- **The Waldenses and Albigenses**
 - **Protest against the RCC disregard of the Bible teachings and practices had great impact until they were persecute by the Inquisition**
 - **They identified the Little Horn as a system—the Papacy**
 - **Similarly the Papacy was identified as the man of sin, Babylon, and antichrist**



VIEWS OF THE WALDENSES

- **The RCC is harlot and Babylon of Revelation**
- **It is the antichrist, sitting in God's temple (church)**
- **It attacks the truth and the saints**
- **The pope is head and originator of all heresies**
- **Preaching authority is from God, not from bishop or pope**
- **God's elect is still in Babylon. Call to come out of Babylon**
- **Waldenses are the true representatives of the apostles**

FURTHER LIGHT ON PROPHETIC TIME IN THE MIDDLE AGES

- **Prophetic views since the 12th century. Prophetic time is not literal but symbolic according to the RC Abbot Joachim of Floris**
- **He applied the year-day principle in Num 14 and Ezek 4 to the time prophecies about the antichrist in Daniel and Revelation**
- **Context: After many centuries Rome had taken on the characteristics of the antichrist in the Bible prophecy**



DEVELOPMENTS OF TIME PROPHECY IN THE MIDDLE AGES

- **Impact of Joachim of Fiori since 12th c.**
 - **Prophetic time is seen symbolic**
 - **Use of the year-day principle of Num 14:34 and Ezek 4:6**
 - **The 3 1/2 times/years or 42 months or 1260 days equals 1260 actual years.**
 - **1260 years begins with Christ's birth**
 - **It ends with A.D. 1260**
 - **Beginning: Christ's death in 31**
 - **Ending: $31 + 1260 = 1291$**
 - **Beginning: Jerusalem's Fall in 70**
 - **Ending: $70 + 1260 = 1330$**



FURTHER LIGHT ON THE LITTLE HORN OF DANIEL 7 IN THE MIDDLE AGES

- **Context: Power struggle between Pope Gregory IX and the Emperor Fredrick II**
- **Place: Synod of Regensburg, Germany (1240)**
- **Event: The defense of the emperor by Eberhard II, Archbishop of Salzburg (1200–1246)**
- **Eberhard's new insight:**
 - **The Pope is the little horn of Daniel 7**
 - **Key issue: Did Rome fall in the time of the the early church that led to the rise of the little horn?**



IN THE 13TH CENTURY EVIDENCE BECAME CLEAR THAT ROME HAD FALLEN

- **Archbishop Eberhard's contribution**
 - **Historical facts confirm that Rome had fallen and was divided into 10 kingdoms**
 - **Rise of the little horn fits the history of the papacy**
 - **Nature of the little horn reveals the nature of the papacy**
- **Eberhard's impact: Papacy as the little horn of Daniel 7 becomes the standard view among**
 - **John Wycliffe and his followers in Britain**
 - **Luther and his associates in Germany**
 - **Cranmer and Knox and the majority of British Reformers**
 - **The majority of the 17th and 18th century Protestants**

SPEED OF PROGRESSIVE REVELATION

- **Why did it take so many centuries before interpreters identify the papacy in prophecy?**
 - **1. Perception of Rome as the eternal city**
 - **2. The anticipation of the end of the world**
 - **3. The popular belief about the antichrist**
 - **4. The Augustinian view of the millennium**
 - **5. The proper fulfillment needed time to mature**

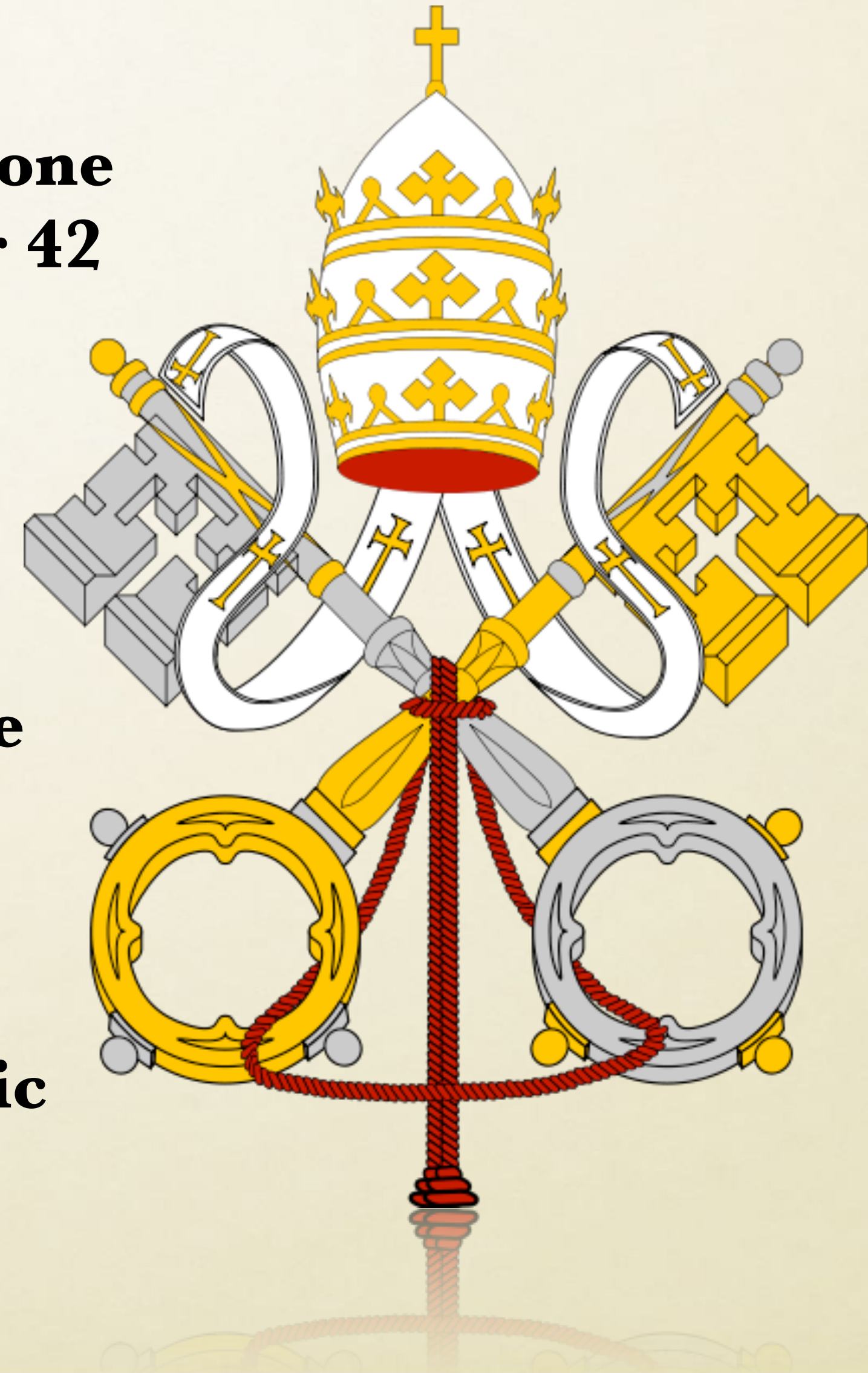
VIEW OF MANY PROTESTANT REFORMERS

- **Identified the restraining power of 2 Thess 2 as**
 - **The Roman Empire**
 - **After the Fall of Rome the Papacy took its place**



VIEW OF MANY PROTESTANT REFORMERS

- **Identity of the Man of sin—the antichrist**
- **Rise of the apostate church—Papacy**
- **New insight in prophetic time: A day is one year. Papacy was to rule for 3.5 years or 42 months or 1260 days. This is 1260 years**
- **Papacy is the little horn of Dan 7, who persecutes God's people for 3.5 "prophetic" years or 1260 years**
- **In Rev 12 Satan persecutes God's people for 1260 prophetic days or 1260 years**
- **In Rev 13, Satan's instrument is the 1st beast of Rev 13. It is the papacy that persecutes God's people for 42 prophetic months or 1260 years**
- **Papacy is the harlot of Revelation 17**



VIEWS OF MANY REFORMERS ON THE LITTLE HORN OF DANIEL 7

- **Rise of the little horn which is man of sin**
 - **The four beasts are the world empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome**
 - **Rome would fall and divided into 10 kingdoms**
 - **Then the little horn would rise and uproot 3 of the 10 kingdoms. It is different in nature**
 - **It is a blasphemous power and persecutes God's people for time, times and half a time or 3.5 prophetic years which is 1260 years**

THE REFORMERS, THE WOMAN AND THE DRAGON OF REVELATION 12

- **The war between the woman and the dragon**
 - **Satan working through the Roman Empire attacks God's people to destroy Christ**
 - **Christ escapes and Satan continues to persecute the church for 1260 prophetic days or 1260 years**
 - **After this time Satan launches an attack on the remnant of God's people who are faithful**

THE REFORMERS AND THE SEA BEAST OF REVELATION 13

- **Rise of 1st beast of Revelation 13**
- **The beast rises out of the sea and is composed of elements of the empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.**
- **Dragon gives the beast his power, throne and authority for 42 prophetic months or 1260 years.**
- **The beast was worshiped, it blasphemed, one of its heads was mortally wounded and it was healed.**

HERITAGE OF PROTESTANT CHRISTIANITY

- Views of the Little Horn's rule during the Reformation
 - Beginning: Emperor Constantine in 312
 - Ending: $312+1260=1572$
 - Pope Leo I in 440. Ending $440+1260=1700$
 - Beginning: Emperor Justinian in the 530s
 - Ending: $530s+1260=1790s$



VIEWS OF PROTESTANTS AFTER THE REFORMATION

- **Persecution period of the little horn Anti-Christ in Dan 7 is the same as the sea beast of Rev 13**
- **Papacy dominates God's people during 3.5 years, 42 months and 1260 prophetic days, which equals 1260 years**
- **It will receive a deadly wound, or be judged. This was fulfilled with the captivity of the pope in 1798, exactly 1260 years after 538.**



1260 Years

538 AD

1798 AD

WHERE DID THE PROTESTANT REFORMERS GET THIS INFORMATION?

- **What was their source of information?**
 - **The Bible**
 - **Prophecy studied in the light of history—
Prophetic history**
 - **Study of Daniel and the Revelation**



RC CHURCH LAUNCHED THE COUNTER REFORMATION

- **Strategy to eliminate Protestantism**
- **Formation of the Jesuit order**
 - **They developed a counter interpretation of prophecy**
- **Focus of the attack: The year-day principle**
 - **It is not Biblical**
 - **It is against the ancient traditions of the church**
 - **It gives unreliable time calculations for the antichrist**
- **Method: Introduction of 2 conflicting approaches to divert the identification of antichrist with the papacy**
 - **Futurism and Preterism**



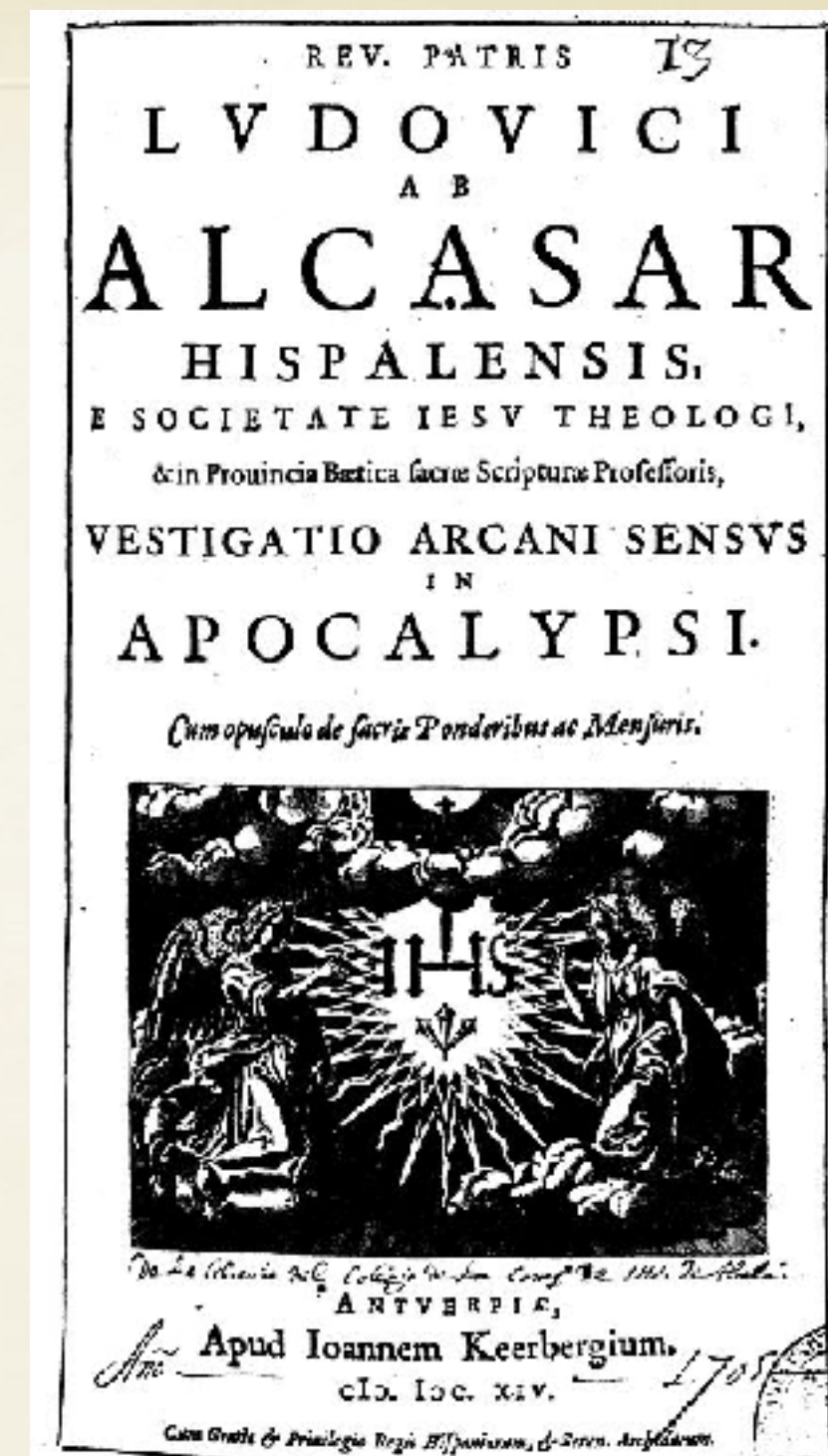
JESUIT PROPHEPIC COUNTER INTERPRETATIONS

- **Rise of Modern Futurism**
- **Francisco de Ribera (1537-1591)**
 - **Focus: Identification of the antichrist in Daniel**
 - **Sources: The early church fathers**
 - **View: Antichrist is a person, not a system who rules in the final 7 years of the world**
- **Bellarmino (1542-1621)**
 - **Fall of Rome: It takes place in the future. Rome is not yet divided**
 - **Dual interpretation of the little horn: Little horn is Antiochus who is a type of antichrist. The true antichrist will appear in the future**



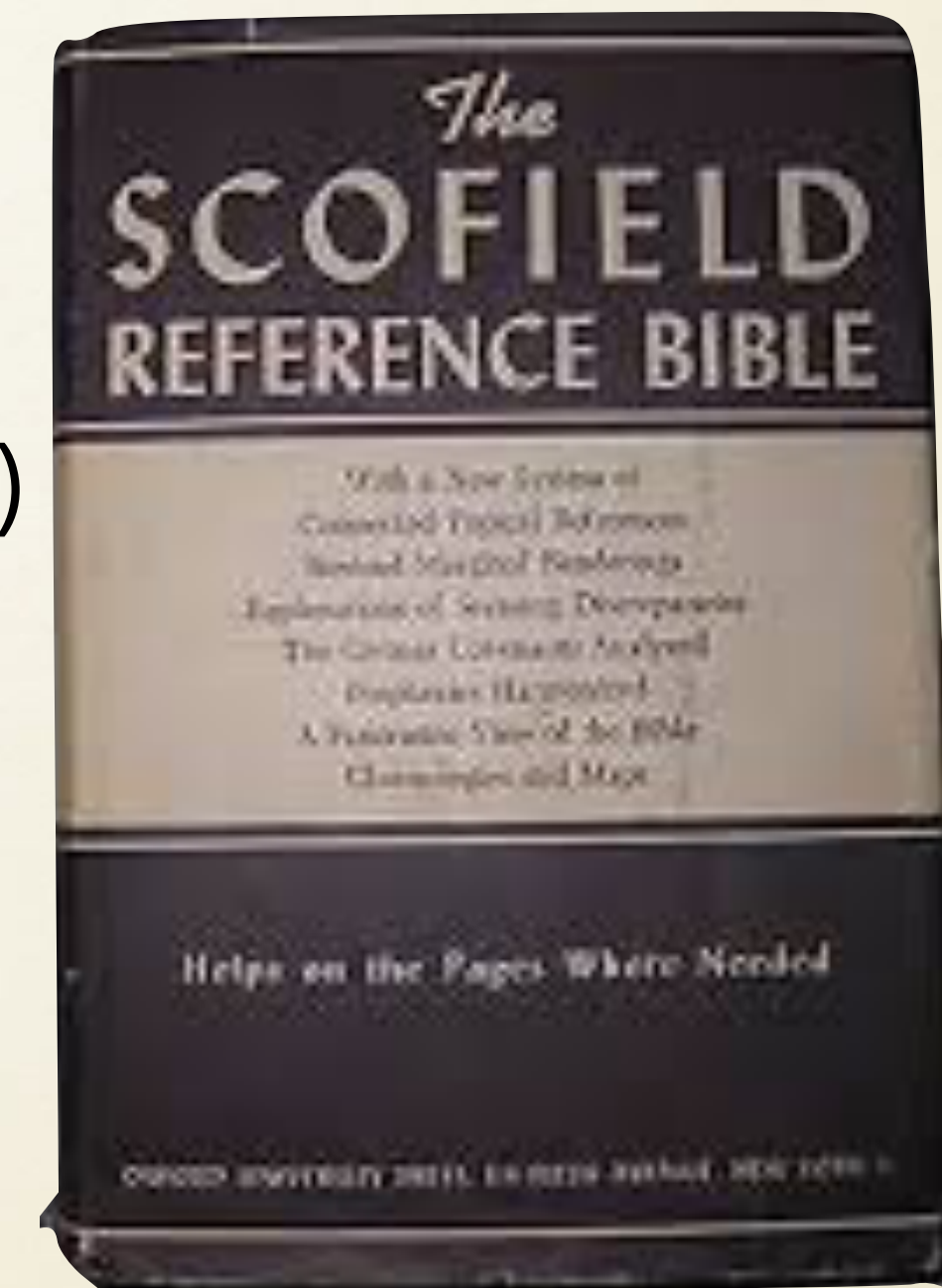
JESUIT PROPHEPIC COUNTER INTERPRETATIONS

- Rise of Modern Preterism
- Luis del Alcazar (1554-1613)
 - Focus: Identification of the antichrist in Revelation
- Content of Revelation
 - War of the Catholic Church on Jews and Pagans
 - Rev 1-11: Rejection of Jews, fall of Jerusalem
 - Rev 12-19: Overthrow of pagan Roman Empire
- Sources: The early church fathers
- View of antichrist
 - Antichrist has already appeared
 - Antichrist is not a system but Emperor Nero



JESUIT IMPACT ON PROTESTANTISM

- **Short term effect on Protestants was minimal**
 - **Few Protestants accepted futurism or preterism**
- **Long term effect extensive (late 19th and 20th centuries)**
 - **Futurism adopted by evangelicals and dispensationalists**
 - **Preterism adopted by historical critics**
- **After the Christian churches rejected the Great Second Advent Movement of the 1840s that was based on the Protestant historicist method of prophetic interpretation these Protestants accepted the futurist and preterist approaches of the counter reformation.**
- **Now only few historicists remain. The large majority now follows the RCC approach to prophecy, bringing Catholics and Protestants closer together in prophetic understanding.**



RISE OF A NEW KIND OF PROTESTANTISM IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES

- **Focus on the writings of the Reformers, not the Bible**
- **Engaged in theological controversies**
- **Churches use government power to suppress views different than those of the Reformers**
- **Development of the cold orthodoxy of Sardis. It appears to be alive, but it is dead. (Rev 3:1)**
- **Stagnation of the Protestant Reformation**

JESUS STRATEGY FOR THE LAST DAYS

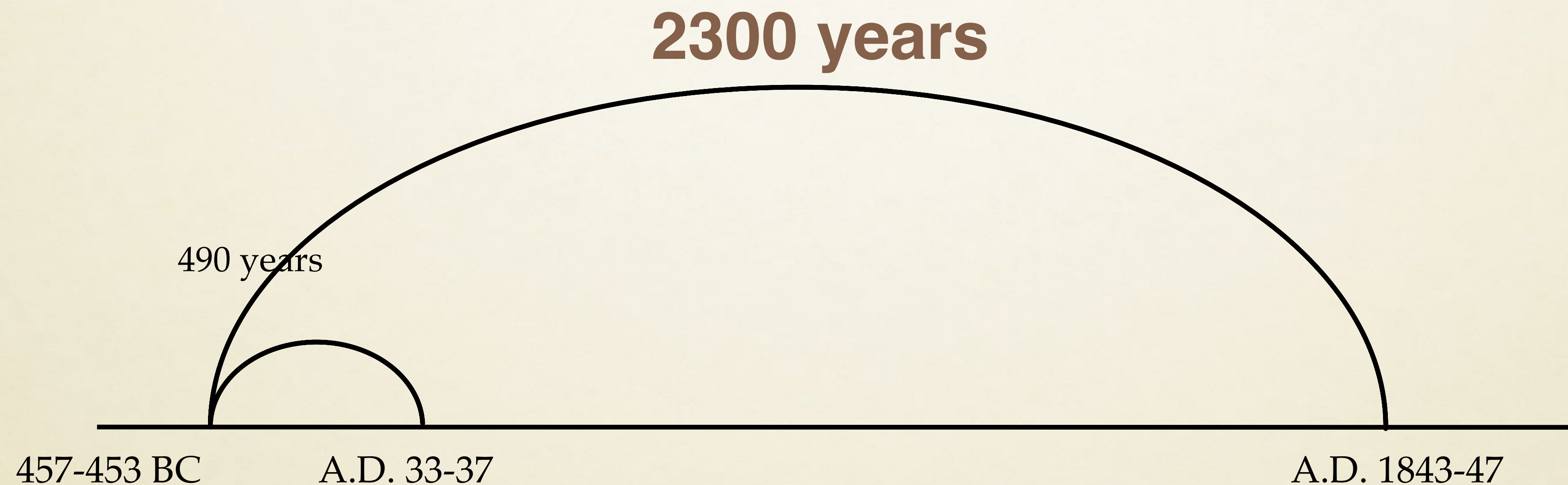
- **The Protestant Reformation is to continue**
- **“Jesus and all the heavenly host looked with disgust upon the scene; yet God had a message for the church that was sacred and important. If received, it would make a thorough reformation in the church, revive the living testimony that would purge out hypocrites and sinners, and bring the church again into favor with God.”**
(Early Writings, p. 228)



JESUS REVIVES THE ARRESTED REFORMATION THROUGH PROPHETIC SIGNS AND FULFILLMENTS

- **Jesus' strategy revealed in prophecy**
 - **Signs on earth (Lisbon earthquake 1755), in sun and moon (Dark Day 1780) and stars (Leonids 1833) (Rev 6)**
 - **The French Revolution (1789-1799) (Rev 11)**
 - **Deadly wound of the papacy in 1798 (Dan 7; Rev 13)**
 - **From 1798 on there began the unsealing of Daniel (12:4) that shifted the attention from the 1260 prophetic days of Daniel 7 to the 2300 prophetic days of Daniel 8.**
- **Result**
 - **The study of Dan 8:14 resulted in the rise of the Great Second Advent Movement of the 1830s and 1840s**

GENERAL PROTESTANT VIEW OF THE 2300-YEAR PERIOD OF DANIEL 8



Positions of about 100 non-Millerite Adventist interpreters

NON-MILLERITE ADVENTIST VIEWS ON THE CLEANSING OF THE SANCTUARY END OF THE 2300 YEARS

- **The beginning of the millennium on earth**
- **Fall or destruction of Muhammadanism (Islam)**
- **Cleansing of Jerusalem, restoration of true worship**



NON-MILLERITE VIEWS ON THE END OF THE 2300 YEARS IN THE 1840s

- **Reestablishment/conversion of the Jews in Palestine**
- **Cleansing of the church from antichristian abominations**
- **Cleansing of the church from all impurities**
- **Purging of church from all papal influences**
- **Reestablishment of the true worship of God**
- **Result: Everyone experienced a disappointment in the 1840s**
- **Result: All expositors experienced a disappointment**



WILLIAM MILLER

AND THE BIBLE AND THE BIBLE ONLY



SOLA SCRIPTURA PRINCIPLES OF ADVENTIST BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- **I. All Scripture is necessary, and may be understood by diligent application and study. 2 Tim. iii. 15, 16, 17.**
- **II. Every word must have its proper bearing on the subject presented in the Bible. Matt. v. 18.**

SOLA SCRIPTURE PRINCIPLES OF ADVENTIST BIBLE INTERPRETATION

- **III. Scripture must be its own expositor, since it is a rule of itself. If I depend on a teacher to expound it to me, and he should guess at its meaning, or desire to have it so on account of his sectarian creed, or to be thought wise, then his *guessing, desire, creed, or wisdom*, is my rule, not the Bible. Ps. xix. 7-11; cxix. 97-105. Matt. xxiii. 8-10. 1 Cor. ii. 12-16. Eze. xxxiv. 18, 19. Luke xi. 52. Mal. ii. 7, 8.**
- **IV. To understand doctrine, bring all the Scriptures together on the subject you wish to know; then let every word have its proper influence, and if you can form your theory without a contradiction, you cannot be in an error. Isa. xxviii. 7-29; xxxv. 8. Prov. xix. 27. Luke xxiv. 27, 44, 45. Rom. xvi. 26. James v. 19. 2 Pet. i. 19, 20.**

The Interpretation of Scripture

- Confirmation
- – “Those who are engaged in proclaiming the third angel’s message are searching the Scriptures upon the same plan that Father Miller adopted.”
Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, Nov. 25, 1884



SOLA SCRIPTURE PRINCIPLES OF ADVENTIST PROPHETIC INTERPRETATION

- **V. God has revealed things to come, by visions, in figures and parables; and in this way the same things are oftentimes revealed again and again, by different visions, or in different figures and parables. If you wish to understand them, you must combine them all in one. Ps. lxxxix. 19. Hos. xii. 10. Hab. ii. 2. Acts ii. 17. 1 Cor. x. 6. Heb. ix. 9, 24. Ps. lxxviii. 2. Matt. xiii. 13, 34. Gen. xli. 1-32. Dan. ii., vii., and viii. Acts x. 9-16.**
- **VI. Visions are always mentioned as such. 2 Cor. xii. 1.**
- **VII. How to know when a word is used figuratively. If it makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be understood literally; if not, figuratively. Rev. xii. 1, 2; xvii.3-7.**

SOLA SCRIPTURE PRINCIPLES OF ADVENTIST PROPHETIC INTERPRETATION

- **VIII. Figures always have a figurative meaning, and are used much in prophecy to represent future things, times, and events; such as *mountains*, meaning *governments*; *beasts*, meaning *kingdoms*. *waters*, meaning *people*. *Lamp*, meaning *Word of God*. *Day*, meaning *year*. Dan. ii. 35, 44; vii. 8, 17. Rev. xvii. 1, 15. Ps. cxix. 105. Ezek. iv. 6.**
- **IX. To learn the true meaning of figures, trace your figurative word through your Bible, and, where you find it explained, put it on your figure, and if it makes good sense, you need look no further; if not, look again**

SOLA SCRIPTURE PRINCIPLES OF ADVENTIST PROPHETIC INTERPRETATION

- **X. Figures sometimes have two or more different significations; as day is used in a figurative sense to represent three different periods of time. 1. Indefinite. 2. Definite, a day for a year. 3. Day for a thousand years. Eccles. vii. 14. Ezek. iv. 6. 2 Pet. iii. 8.**
- **XI. Parables are used as comparisons to illustrate subjects, and must be explained in the same way as figures, by the subject and Bible. Mark iv. 13.**
- **XII. To know whether we have the true historical event for the fulfillment of a prophecy. If you find every word of the prophecy (after the figures are understood) is literally fulfilled, then you may know that your history is the true event. But if one word lacks a fulfillment, then you must look for another event, or wait its future development. For God takes care that history and prophecy doth agree, so that the true, believing children of God may never be ashamed. Ps. xxi. 5. Isa xiv. 17-19. 1 Pet. ii. 6. Rev. xvii. 17. Acts iii. 18.**

SOLA SCRIPTURE PRINCIPLES OF ADVENTIST PROPHETIC INTERPRETATION

- **XIII. The most important rule of all is, that you must have *faith*. It must be a faith that requires a sacrifice, and, if tried, would give up the dearest object on earth, the world and all its desires, character, living, occupation, friends, home, comforts, and worldly honors. If any of these should hinder our believing any part of God's word, it would show our faith to be vain. Nor can we ever believe, so long as one of these motives lies lurking in our hearts. We must believe that God will never forfeit his word.**
- **Source: P. Gerard Damsteegt, *Foundations of the Seventh-day Adventist Message and Mission*, pp. 299, 300.**

MILLER'S VIEW OF DANIEL 8

- **The little horn**
 - **Rome (pagan and papal)**
- **The sanctuary**
- **The earth**
- **The cleansing of the sanctuary**
 - **Event**
 - **The cleansing of the earth**
 - **Jesus begin the judgment at the Second Advent**
 - **Time**
 - **At the end of the 2300 years**
“about 1843”



The First Angel's Message of Revelation 14:6, 7



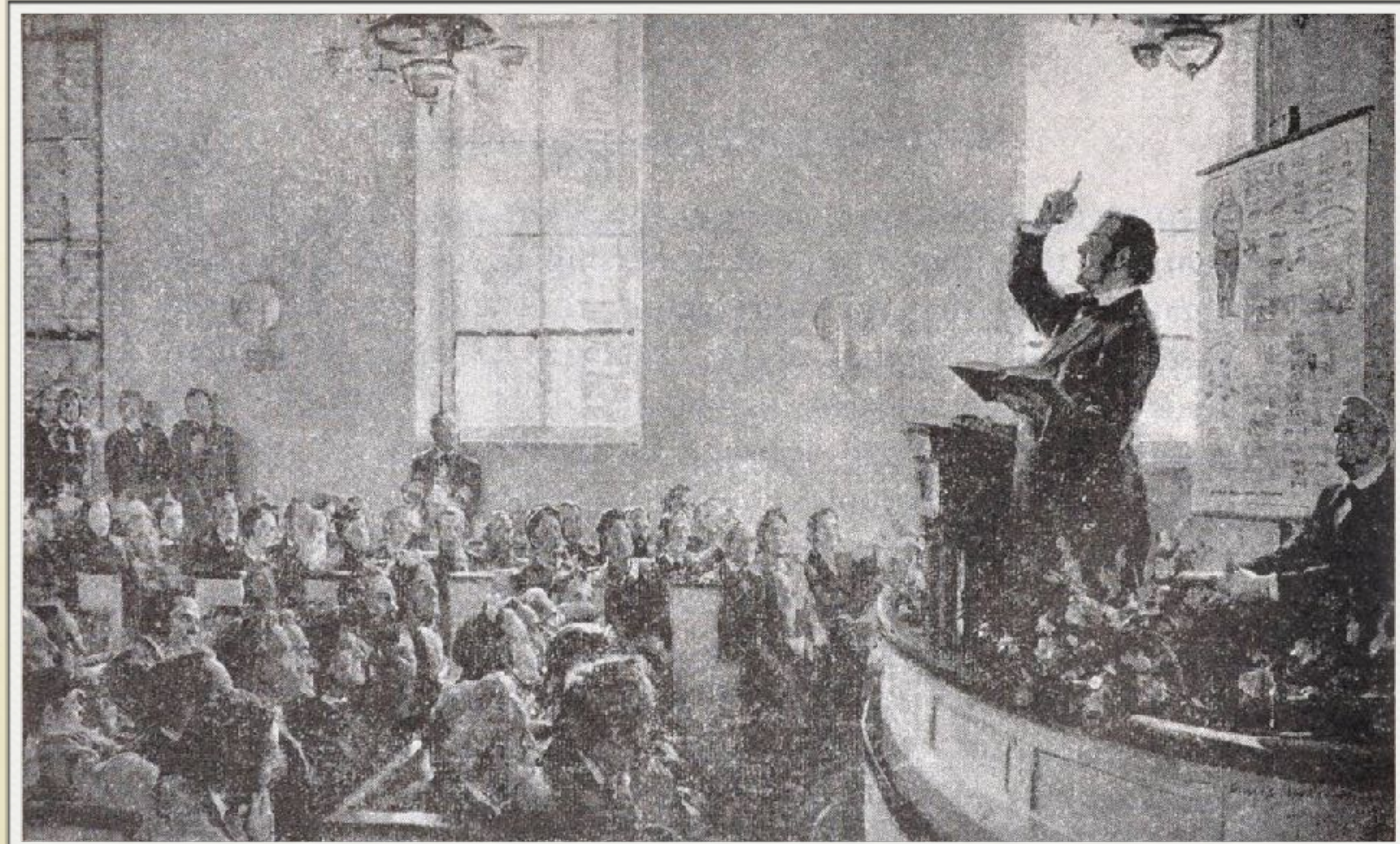
“Go and Tell It To the World”



NOTE THE IMPACT OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION ON ADVENTISM

- **Adventists inherited the Historical (Historicist) interpretation of prophecy from the Reformers**
- **They inherited the view that the papacy is the antichrist, the man of sin, and the little horn of Daniel 7 that arose out of the Roman Empire**
- **Adventists inherited the year-day principle used by the Reformers that interpreted the 2300 days as 2300 years when Christ was to cleanse the sanctuary in 1844**
- **The Adventists' commitment to the "Bible and the Bible Only" separated them from opposing Christians and shed new light on Christ final ministry in heaven which revealed the last message of mercy (Rev 14:6-12).**

THE RESTORATION OF ALL TRUTH AMONG GOD'S REMNANT PEOPLE



DISCOVERY OF NEW TRUTHS SINCE 1844 BY THOSE WHO EMBRACED THE ADVENT MOVEMENT

- **Christ our High Priest has begun to cleanse the heavenly sanctuary of Dan 8:14 with His blood of the confessed sins of God's people**
- **The Holy Spirit has begun to purify God's remnant on earth to meet Jesus at His return**



DISCOVERY OF NEW TRUTHS SINCE 1844

- **Three angels' messages of Rev 14:6-12 are the present truth for the end**
- **The Sabbath is a test for God's people in the time of the end**
- **The Sabbath message prepares us for the seal of God in Rev 7**



DISCOVERY OF NEW TRUTHS SINCE 1844

- **The United States leads out in the final conflict**
- **The SDA church is the church that prepares the world for Christ coming**
- **Christ's wholistic ministry is the remnant's model of service.**



DISCOVERY OF NEW TRUTHS SINCE 1844

- **Health Reform is a vital part of the present truth**
- **Unique lifestyle during the antitypical Day of Atonement**
- **The faith of Jesus is the key to final victory**
- **Christ's final call: The latter rain and the loud cry (Rev 18:1-4)**



**THE THREE ANGELS MESSAGES OF
PROPHECY ARE THE GOSPEL FOR
THE TIME OF THE END:
THEY PREPARE PEOPLE FOR THE
SECOND ADVENT**