

The Great Controversy, II

1. **Rev 12:7-9** the great controversy that started in heaven between God and Satan came about as a result of Satan's efforts to overthrow the Law of God; Satan's enmity against God's Law stems from the fact that it condemns him as transgressor and consigns him to hell-fire and eternal death;
2. Satan's objective is to rally every created being to his side by causing them to transgress that Law, (just as he did), in order to support his bold claim that the Law of God cannot be kept; success in this effort means guaranteed self-preservation
3. **Rev 14:12; Rev 12:17**; God, on the other hand, is out to prove that His Law is just, holy and good and can be perfectly kept; in the end, we know that God wins because He is able to produce a people who He can point to and say,
 1. **Rev 14:12**--"Here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus;
 2. **Rev 12:17**--"the remnant of her seed who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus"
4. **Rev 12:9; Rev 13:13; Rev 16:13-14; Rev 19:2**--Meanwhile, Satan induces men to transgress God's Law either through a work of deception, or through a work of intimidation;

From the very beginning of the great controversy in heaven it has been Satan's purpose to overthrow the law of God. It was to accomplish this that he entered upon his rebellion against the Creator, and though he was cast out of heaven he has continued the same warfare upon the earth. **To deceive men, and thus lead them to transgress God's law, is the object which he has steadfastly pursued.** GC 582.

5. And those whose lives testify against his claim that the Law cannot be kept, he neutralizes through the process of elimination. . .

. . .Whenever, through faith in the Lamb of God, a soul renounces the service of sin, Satan's wrath is kindled. **The holy life of Abel testified against Satan's claim that it is impossible for man to keep God's law.** When Cain, moved by the spirit of the wicked one, saw that he could not control Abel, he was so enraged that he destroyed his life. And wherever there are any who will stand in vindication of the righteousness of the law of God, the same spirit will be manifested against them. **PP 77.**

6. Cain and Abel represents two classes of people who will exist until the end through the course of the great controversy

Cain and Abel represent two classes that will exist in the world till the close of time. . .**PP 72**

1. **Abel**--represents those who will live "holy lives" through keeping the commandments of God by faith, and
2. **Cain**--represents those who lives which are characterized by unbelief and disobedience to God's Law

There are only two parties upon this earth—those who stand under the bloodstained banner of Jesus Christ and those who stand under the black banner of rebellion. In the twelfth chapter of Revelation is represented the great conflict between the obedient and the disobedient [Revelation 12:17] **7BC 974**.

- a. In **Rev 12:17**, the **dragon** represents the Disobedient, and
- b. the **remnant of the woman's seed who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus** are the Obedient;

7. These are the same two classes of people who are differentiated from each other by the third angel

I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, "Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention." **EW 118**.

1. the **wheat**--the obedient
 2. the **tares**--the rebellious and disobedient
8. The book of Revelation assigns symbols to represents these two classes of people
1. the 3 beast powers of Revelation--represent the Disobedient
 2. the 144,000 and the great multitude--the Obedient

Count the Number of the Beast

9. **Rev 13:18**--Interestingly, the book of Revelation also assigns numbers to represent the two classes of people **who develop opposite characters** throughout the course of the great controversy; hence, there is a call to those who are wise to count these numbers;
1. **The three beast powers of Revelation 12 and 13** --which also represent the Disobedient are assigned the number "6"; this is seen in the fact that 6 characteristics are constantly being attributed to each of them
 2. **the 144,000 and the great multitude**--represent the Obedient and are assigned the number "7", the number that stands for perfection (**COL 243**); these are stamped with the number "7" because they obey God's commandments and bear resemblance to God's perfect character (7-fold description of God's character in **Exo 34:6-7**)
10. The counting of these "numbers" not only make the study of prophecy intensely interesting, but also offers several important practical applications, as will be seen;
11. **IMPORTANT**: The call to count the number of his name—has very little to do with counting letters from a name or title of people; rather, it is a call to "count" and be aware of certain characteristics that are each attributed to both the Obedient and the Disobedient:
1. **Exo 33:19**--the name of God is associated with His character;
 2. **John 2:23**--to believe in the name of Jesus is to believe in the person of Jesus as Savior (**John 2:23**)
 3. Our pioneers (notably Uriah Smith) have historically applied this number to the papacy, based on the number equivalents of his Latin title "**Vicarius Filii Dei**;" but it is now obvious that there is more to the theology of the number "6" or "666" than was understood in his day;

The 144,000 (The Obedient)	Spiritual Babylon (The Disobedient)
1. Rev 14:1: they stand with the Lamb on mount Zion having the father's name on their foreheads	1. Rev 13:3-4, 8 --Babylon demands worship which is God's prerogative alone
2. Rev 14:2-3: have harps and sing a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts and the elders	2. Rev 13:6 —he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God , his tabernacle and them that dwell therein;
3. Rev 14:3: redeemed from the earth	3. Rev 14:8; Rev 18:3 --she made all nations drink of the wine of her fornication
4. Rev 14:4: not defiled with women for they are virgins	4. Rev 17:2; Rev 18:3, 9; Rev 19:2 --fornicated with the kings of the earth
5. Rev 14:4: they follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth 1.	5. Rev 13:7; Rev 17:6, 14; Rev 18:24 --made war with the saints; found drunk with the blood of martyrs
6. Rev 14:4: redeemed from among men being first fruits unto God and to the Lamb	6. Rev 18:23 -- she deceived all nations with her sorceries
7. Rev 14:5: in their mouth was found no guile for they are without fault before the throne of God	

12. Counting the number of the beast in Revelation puts the finger squarely on spiritual Babylon and identifies it as the real enemy of God's people, not a supercomputer, not a bar code, not the Moslems and not even Antiochus Epiphanes!

13. Also, the branding of the beast powers in Revelation with the number "6" serves as a tie connects them to the two powers in opposition to God and His people in the book of Daniel; this tie-in needs to be clearly seen and understood to better understand the issues that will play out in the final conflict;

Spiritual Babylon of Revelation Is a Chip Off the Old Block

14. The rebellious activities of the two kings of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, mentioned in the book of Daniel, are stamped with the number 6!

15. In Daniel 3, king Nebuchadnezzar's rebellious actions against the government of heaven is associated with the number "6";

1. The dimensions of the image of gold are factors of the number "6": 60 by 6 cubits (**Dan 3:1**);
2. Six specific musical instruments are mentioned 3 times by name in connection with the call to bow down and worship the golden image (**Dan 3:5, 10, 15**)
 1. Contrast this with a seven-fold list of musical instruments used in sacred worship in the sanctuary, in **Ps 150**!
3. Most important of all, 6 distinct, rebellious actions by Nebuchadnezzar are noted:
 1. **verse 1:** the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits
 2. **verse 2:** the king gathered together the princes, the governors and the captains
 3. **verse 4-5:** the commanded to people to fall down and worship the golden image that the king hath set up

4. **verse 13-14:** Nebuchadnezzar commanded to bring shadrach, Meshach and Abednego; the previous command in verses 4-5 is repeated
 5. **verse 19:** commanded that they should heat the furnace seven times more
 6. **verse 20:** he commanded the most mighty men in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and to cast them into the burning furnace
16. Belshazzar's rebellious actions in Daniel 5 which immediately precedes the fall of Babylon to the Medes and the Persians are also stamped with the number "6";
1. Six Babylonian gods are mentioned in connection with Belshazzar's call to idolatrous worship (**Dan 5:4, 23**)
 2. Six distinct reasons why Belshazzar was weighed in the balances of the sanctuary and found wanting and why Babylon is fallen:
 1. **verse 22:** thou hast **not humbled thine heart** though thou knewest all this
 2. **verse 23:** thou **has lifted up thyself** against the Lord of heaven
 3. **verse 23:** and **have brought the vessels of his house** before thee
 4. **verse 23:** thou and thy lords, . . . have **drunk wine in them**
 5. **verse 23:** thou hast **praised the gods of silver and gold**, of brass and iron, wood and stone
 6. **verse 23:** God, in whose hand thy breath is, . . . **hast thou not glorified**
17. This is a significant observation, because in **Revelation 18**, six reasons are given as to why spiritual Babylon is fallen:
1. **Verse 2:** she is become the habitation of devils
 2. **Verse 2:** she is the hold of every foul spirit
 3. **Verse 2:** she is become the cage of every unclean and hateful bird
 4. **Verse 3:** all nations have drunk of the wrath of her fornication
 5. **Verse 3:** the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her
 6. **Verse 3:** the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies
1. The fall of Babylon involved drinking wine, as is with spiritual Babylon
18. Another interesting observation: drinking of wine was involved in the fall of literal Babylon; so it is also with spiritual Babylon;
19. Six-fold description of the attire of the great city of Babylon in **Revelation 18:6**
"fine linen, purple, scarlet, gold, precious stones and pearls"
20. Six things are no more as a result of spiritual Babylon's total collapse which occurs interestingly during the 6th plague, when the great river Euphrates is dried up!
1. **verse 21:** that great city Babylon shall be thrown down and shall be found no more at all
 2. **verse 22:** the voice of harpers and musicians and of pipers and trumpeters shall be heard no more
 3. **verse 22:** no craftsman of whatever craft shall be found any more in thee;
 4. **verse 22:** and the sound of a millstone shall be found no more in thee;
 5. **verse 23:** the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee;
 6. **verse 23:** and the voice of the bridegroom and the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee;

21. **IMPORTANT:** The rebellious activities of the two Babylonian kings, Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, which are noted in the book of Daniel, serve as template or blueprint for the issues that will surface as the great controversy reaches a climax
1. **Nebuchadnezzar's rebellious actions**—trampled the **Law of God** underfoot and caused men to transgress it
 2. **Belshazzar's rebellious actions**—showed contempt for the Hebrew sanctuary and its services;
 3. Taken together, both of these rebellious actions are designed to make of no effect the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus!
22. **Rev 12:17**—Hence, the climax of the great controversy recorded in **Rev 12:17** is nothing but a replay of the old controversies recorded in the historical part of the book of Daniel
1. the three beast powers of **Revelation 12** and **13** are stamped with the number “6” just as Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar are;
 2. They follow in the steps of the Babylonian monarchs in compelling men to transgress the Law of God and to "profane" the sanctuary truth
23. Again, the branding or stamping of the number “6” on Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar and the three beast power of Revelation shows that these entities are one and are united in attempting to overthrow the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus (the gospel in the sanctuary service)

The Medes and the Persians Stamped with the Number "6"

24. Although Daniel is not tested in Daniel 3 along with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, he is tested separately in **Daniel 6** and the rebellious actions of the Medes and the Persians are noted there in a six-fold manner:
1. **Verses 4-5**--the presidents and the princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom;
 2. **Verses 6-7**--The presidents and princes assemble together to petition king Darius to establish a royal statute, a firm decree, regulating prayer for 30 days
 3. **Verses 8-9**--These men urge the king to sign the writing that it cannot be changed according to the Law of the Medes and the Persians
 4. **Verses 10-11**--These men assemble and find Daniel praying and making supplication before His God
 5. **Verses 12-15**--They came near (assembled) and remind the king that the law of the Medes and the Persians cannot be changed and therefore the king should execute it
 6. **Verse 16**--King Darius commands that Daniel be cast into the lions' den

The Little Horn of Daniel 7 stamped with the Number “6”

25. In Daniel 7, the rebellious career of spiritual Babylon (the little horn power) during the 1260 years of supremacy is also given in a six-fold pattern:
1. **Verse 24:** He shall be diverse from the first
 2. **Verse 24:** he shall subdue three kings
 3. **Verse 25:** he shall speak great words against the most High
 4. **Verse 25:** He shall wear out the saints of the most High
 5. **Verse 25:** he shall think to change times and laws
 6. **Verse 25:** they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time

Cain Stamped with the Number "6"

26. The number "6" is not original with Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar; Cain is the first human being to be stamped with the number "6" and represents a class of people who live until the end of time who will be disobedient and presumptuous; we are given a six-fold listing of the sins of Cain in Genesis 4:
1. **Verse 3:** Cain brought of the fruit of the ground-- impiety; disobedience to God's specific command
 2. **Verse 5:** Cain was very wroth and his countenance fell (jealousy, anger, murder; see **Matt 5:21, 22**)
 3. **Verse 8:** Cain talked with Abel. . .Cain rose up against his brother Abel and slew him (sin of deceit and murder);
 4. **Verse 9:** And Cain said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper (lying)
 5. **Verse 13:** Cain said unto the Lord, My punishment is greater than I can bear (sin of self-pity; Cain accuses of God of unfairness and injustice)
 6. **Verse 16:** And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord. . .(hardness of heart, sin of impenitence or refusal to acknowledge and confess sin); Impenitence, characteristic of spiritual Babylon (**Rev 2:18; Rev 16:9, 21**)

Lucifer Stamped With the Number "6"

27. Finally, the branding of the number 6 goes all the way back to the beginning of the great controversy, when Lucifer disobeyed the law of God and rebelled against the government of heaven; the Bible gives a six-fold delineation of Lucifer's sin and rebellion in **Ezekiel 28**:
1. **Verse 15:** . . .Iniquity was found in thee
 2. **Verse 16:** By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence
 3. **Verse 16:** thou hast sinned
 4. **Verse 17:** Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty
 5. **Verse 17:** thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness
 6. **Verse 18:** Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick;

Conclusion

28. The reason why Lucifer is stamped with the number "6" is clearly given in **Ezek 28:15, 12**: "Thou wast perfect in thy ways until iniquity was found in thee;" "perfect in beauty" until corrupted by wisdom;
1. Lucifer went from perfection (symbolized by the number 7) to imperfection (symbolized by the number 6, which is less than 7), as a result of his pride, ambition, desire to claim divine prerogatives (**Isa 14:14**) and refusal to repent while given the opportunity;
29. The commandment-keeping people of God, on the other hand, go from imperfection, to perfection;

In the last vision given me, I was shown the startling fact that but a small portion of those who now profess the truth will be sanctified by it and be saved. Many will get above the simplicity of the work. They will conform to the world, cherish idols, and become spiritually dead. **The humble, self-sacrificing followers of Jesus will pass on to perfection**, leaving behind the indifferent and lovers of the world. **1T 608-609.**

As the members of the body of Christ approach the period of their last conflict, "the time of Jacob's trouble," **they will grow up into Christ**, and will partake largely of His Spirit. As the third message swells

to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attend the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. Their faces will shine with the glory of that light which attends the third angel (RH May 27, 1862). **7BC 984.**

30. **Lev 16:30; Zech 3:1-4; Rev 19:7-8; PK 591**-- Character perfection is the result of the final atonement in the heavenly sanctuary, and it is the privilege of those who are exercising genuine faith in Christ today and are cleansing themselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, by living the three angels messages, to receive the white raiment and be counted among those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. . .
31. Those however, who are deceived or coerced into transgressing the Law of God and fail to receive the benefit of the final atonement will end up receiving the mark of the beast and persecuting God's honest children!!
32. As we come closer and still closer to the end, the distinction between the true, loyal commandment keeping people of God and those who are deceived into disobeying them will become more and more evident. . .
33. We need to examine ourselves to make sure there are no areas in our lives in which Satan is holding us in deception:
 1. Are we of those who say, the Law cannot be kept? That we can never overcome sin? That the Law was down away with at the cross?
 2. Are we of those who say, Jesus made a complete and final atonement at the cross? Or that there is no sanctuary in heaven?
 3. Are we so settled into the truth and are being sanctified by it daily?
 4. Do we have the faith that believes in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely from sin? If we do, we will never say, "We can never overcome sin!"

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