

## A. The conflict:

### ❖ The worship.

- Heavenly beings worship God for his creative power (Rev. 4:11; Job 38:6-7).
- For his part, Satan desires to obtain the worship of the world with “beasts” to which he grants power to “create” an image through which he can receive universal worship (Rev. 13:2, 4, 14-15).
- It is not surprising that Sabbath is the point of controversy at such times. Those who “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12) worship Him on the day that commemorates His Creation.

### ❖ The intolerance.

- Our struggle is not physical, but spiritual (Eph. 6:12). We do not use physical weapons, but spiritual ones (2Co. 10: 3-5). However, the enemy does not hesitate to use physical weapons against us.
- Not in vain is there a “woe” for the faithful, due to Satan's fierce attack against the faithful church (Rev. 12:12). For him, any weapon is valid.
  - 1) He tempts us through our inclinations (James 1:14)
  - 2) He convinces us with subtleties (2Co. 4:3-4)
  - 3) Use close people (Mt. 10:34-36)
  - 4) He strikes and threatens (Acts 5:40)
  - 5) Use extreme violence (John 16:2)
- This is how he has acted in history, and this is how his last attack will be: deceptions and subtleties (Rev. 13:13-14); imposition of economic sanctions (Rev. 13:16-17); decree of death for those who do not worship him (Rev. 13:15).

## B. The enemy:

### ❖ The dragon throne.

- The dragon is identified as Satan (Rev. 12:9), while the beast, through which he exercises his power, is identified with the 4th beast of Daniel 7.
- Revelation 13 is an expanded explanation of chapter 12. It begins after the attempt to kill Jesus, and his subsequent ascension (Rev. 12:3-5). The first verses expand on the attack on the church during the 1,260 years, while the rest focus on the events that occur after the dragon's wrath (Rev. 12:17).
- Little by little, the see of Rome was left in the hands of the church, which acquired the political power that allowed it to become the blasphemous power that persecuted the faithful church (Rev. 13:4-8).

### ❖ A healed wound.

- After centuries of using its power to “lead into captivity” and “kill with the sword” (Rev. 13:10), the Roman Church itself was led into captivity and suffered a “deadly wound” (Rev. 13:3).
- Although the Pope maintained ownership of the Papal States until 1870, he finally lost all of his territory when the Kingdom of Italy was created.
- In 1929, Vatican City was recognized as an independent state. The wound was beginning to heal. And what is going to happen from now on?
- As the final events unfold, a world leader will be sought to propose solutions to the global crisis. Among the package of solutions offered by the Papacy will be included Sunday rest as a strong point for the union of families, peoples and nations.

### ❖ Lamb and dragon.

- The first beast arose from the corruption of the Church that Jesus had established. When she received the wound, Satan looked for a “false prophet” to take her place and help her heal (Rev. 13:11; 16:13). Again, he found his ally from a nation that had emerged based on the pure principles of Christianity: North America.
- He began by imitating Jesus (the Lamb). It is a republican nation (without kings, without crowns), and based on the separation of two powers (horns): the civil and the religious.
- As the first world power, it has already begun to speak like a dragon. Soon he will begin to generate laws on religious matters that, supporting the Papacy, will create an “image of the beast” (Rev. 13:12-14).