

wide test of loyalty to God which will distinguish between those who obey the commandments of God, and who have faith in Jesus, and those who pay homage to the Papacy and apostate Protestantism, and who receive the badge of the papal power which is the observance of the Sabbath on the first day of the week. They say that John predicted that the people of the world will be warned by human messengers under God's direction that those who pay homage to the Papacy and apostate Protestantism, and who receive the badge of the papal power which is the observance of the Sabbath on the first day of the week will suffer the wrath of God unmingled with mercy on earth, and will be lost. They say that John predicted that those who heed this warning, and who obey the commandments of God, and who have faith in Jesus will be saved.

Now let us look at this interpretation. The Seventh-day Adventists say that the beast in this passage represents the Papacy, that the image of the beast represents "that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas",¹³⁹ and that the mark of the beast represents the badge of the papal power which is the observance of the Sabbath on the first day of the week. However, these symbols do not represent the things which the Seventh-day Adventists say they represent, for a careful examination of the Book of Revelation reveals that the beast in this passage represents the Antichrist who is a person (cf. Revelation 13:4-8), that the image of the beast represents the image of the Antichrist which the false prophet will cause to be erected in his honor and which the people of the world will be commanded to worship and will be punished with death if they

¹³⁹White, op. cit., p. 263.