
Who's in Charge?

When Christ left Planet Earth, He left His vicar, His substitute, to help and guide His children. The night before He died on the cross, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go I will send him to you. . . . But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.” Christ was speaking of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the only representative, or Vicar, Christ has left behind to lead His people.

What about the papacy? Hasn't the papacy always claimed to be the vicar (substitute) of Christ? Well, let's analyze that thought. Throughout history, how does the character of many of the popes compare with that of our Saviour? Was Christ ever known to put men in prison or on the rack because they did not worship Him as the King of heaven? By the way, the rack used pulleys and ropes to stretch its victims legs and arms out of joint. The rack was just one of many torture devices used to enforce what the papacy thought was “true worship.”

Take a trip through Europe, and you will see the old places where torture was administered. Or go see the Menno Hoff museum in Shipshewana, Indiana, near South Bend, Indiana. Was Christ's voice heard condemning

to death those who did not accept Him? Jesus said, “The Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” Luke 9:55, KJV.

On one side we have Christ telling us who His representative or vicar is, and on the other side we have people telling us who Christ’s representative, or vicar is. What do you think? Should we trust Christ to tell us the truth—or should we trust man to tell us the truth? Christ says that the only vicar, or representative of His over the church, is the Holy Spirit. Have the popes tried to take the place of the Holy Spirit?

There is a huge difference between the spirit shown by Christ and that of His self-proclaimed substitute. The papacy is the same brutally cruel power that crushed out human liberty. The papacy is the apostasy of the latter times. For a thousand years the papacy brutally tortured and killed over 50 million Christians who did not submit to her unbiblical beliefs. One death could possibly have been a mistake, but 50 million deaths is no mistake. 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4.

The papacy, as recorded in the book *The Great Controversy*, used forgeries and fraudulent “miracles” to support Sunday sacredness. In one instance the papacy used a document that it said God Himself had written. The document outlawed work from three o’clock Saturday afternoon until sunrise Monday. The papacy said that many miracles proved God wrote the document. It also said that God paralyzed people who were found working on Sunday.

A mill operator who attempted to grind his corn saw, instead of flour, a stream of blood come out. The document also claimed the mill wheel stood still, although water cascaded over the wheel. A woman who placed dough in the oven found it raw when taken out, though the oven was very hot. Another had dough prepared for baking at three o’clock Saturday afternoon, but determined to set it aside until Monday. She found the next day that angels had made it into loaves and baked it. A man who baked bread after three o’clock Saturday found, when he broke it the next morning, that blood came out.

By such superstitious hoaxes the supporters of Sunday tried to establish its sacredness. (See Roger de Hoveden, *Annals*, vol. 2.) Revelation 13 declares that the power represented by the beast with lamb-like horns will cause “the earth and them (which dwell therein) that live on the earth” to worship the papacy. The beast of Revelation 13 “like a leopard” symbolizes the papacy. The beast with two horns is also to say “to them that dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the beast.” “He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark

on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark." Revelation 13:12, 14, NKJV; 13:16, 17.

The United States is the power represented by the beast with lamb-like horns. The United States will fulfill this prophecy when it enforces Sunday observance, which Rome claims as the special recognition of her supremacy—a recovery of her power.

"One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound." The fatal wound points to the downfall of the papacy in 1798. After this, says the prophet, "the fatal wound . . . healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast." Revelation 13:3. Paul states plainly that the "man of sin" will continue until the second coming. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8. To the very close of time he will carry forward the work of deception. The apostle John, in Revelation, says, also referring to the papacy: "All" people "of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life." Revelation 13:8. It is the boast of Rome that she never changes. Rome is building up huge towering structures. The church of Rome will repeat the persecution and torture of the past in the secret rooms within these buildings.

