

belief, presents to his readers in chapter twelve a view of this conflict as having been already decided in heaven. He uses an ancient sun myth to show that on one side is Christ, and on the other, Satan in the form of a great dragon. War takes place in heaven, Satan is cast down to the earth, and from the heavenly hosts is heard a song of rejoicing over Satan's defeat, but at the same time a cry of woe and warning because he now turns to afflict the Church on earth. In **chapter thirteen** the conflict on earth is revealed. The dragon gives his power to a beast rising from the sea, whom all the world admires and worships. Another beast rises from the land and is given all the power of the first beast in order to enforce this worship, and all the infamy and tyranny of the beasts and the dragon is personified in a certain man whom they may recognize by the mystic number 666. The author evidently intends them to see in these beasts the cult of emperor worship and the priesthood which enforced it, while the wickedness and blasphemy of this movement would be recognized as incarnated in reigning emperor.

He immediately proceeds in chapter fourteen to give them additional comfort and encouragement that in the impending conflict they may be faithful even unto death. There is first presented to them a picture of the Lamb standing on Mount Zion and with Him an indefinite number of followers who are pure and undefiled, while on the other hand is proclaimed the complete overthrow and destruction of Rome, and all who yield to worship the beast. Rome is to be reaped as ripe grain with a sickle, or as grapes with a sharp knife. Just before the seven bowls are introduced by which this destruction is to be accomplished, by way of contrast, the suffering saints are given still another view of the glory of heaven which is represented as a sea of glass mingled with fire, and of the blissful triumph of those who had come off victorious in their conflict with the beast. These sing the song of Moses and the Lamb—"Great and marvellous are thy works, Oh, Lord God, Almighty. Righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of Ages."

And now cometh the actual judgment and overthrow of the Empire and her blasphemous emperor worship. This is represented by seven angels with seven bowls from which God's wrath is poured out. The imagery is that of the Egyptian plagues but in a different order and form. Sores, blood, fire, heat and darkness, and lastly unclean spirits which bring all these ungodly powers together in a war to destroy them. A great battle follows, a very Armageddon or as we would say to-day, a veritable Waterloo. With the pouring out of the seventh bowl the judgment is completed, and the Great City, the Babylon of the West is fallen and given the cup of the wine of the fierceness of God's wrath.

In chapters seventeen and eighteen the description of this judgment is repeated in a more definite and explanatory form, leaving no