



# PROPHECY PAGE

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## Protestants are Returning to Rome

"And his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast" Revelation 13:3.

"As the movement for Sunday enforcement gains favor, he [Rome] rejoices, feeling assured that it will eventually bring the whole Protestant world under the banner of Rome" (1888 GC 448).

We are seeing the final act of the drama develop before our eyes. The healing of the deadly wound is an event of the end-times that will happen only one time – unlike wars, earthquakes and famines which are events that repeat themselves throughout history. Protestants are becoming absorbed into the Roman Catholic Church and this significant act on the part of Protestantism will lay the foundation for setting up the image of the beast in America.

A new poll has come out that confirms in a clear, bold statement that Catholics and Protestants have become indistinguishable from each other. Pew Research Center conducted a survey on the eve of the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation that states that both Protestants and Catholics in Europe and in the U.S. "now overwhelmingly express a willingness to accept each other as neighbors and even as family members."<sup>1</sup>

For example, according to the new poll, in Germany, the birthplace of Martin Luther's Reformation, 78% of Protestants believe that their distinctive faith is more similar and more in common to Roman Catholicism and only 19% of Protestants



believe the two faiths are actually "different." These feelings that Protestants and Catholics have more similarities than differences are also shared by Roman Catholics and Protestants throughout Europe and even in America. This is what 50 years of ecumenism has done; it will bring more people back to Rome.

Roman agents have used the ecumenical movement to first bring the Protestant Churches to the table, and now after 50 years of "dialog" they have come to view matters in the same light.

We have been warned by the Spirit of Prophecy that we as Seventh-day Adventists are in the same danger of joining Rome's ecumenical movement and becoming one with them just as other Protestant churches have done.

**"As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position, and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side"** (*The Great Controversy*, 608).

Protestantism is already "wondering after the beast" in Europe and America. Inspiration tells us:

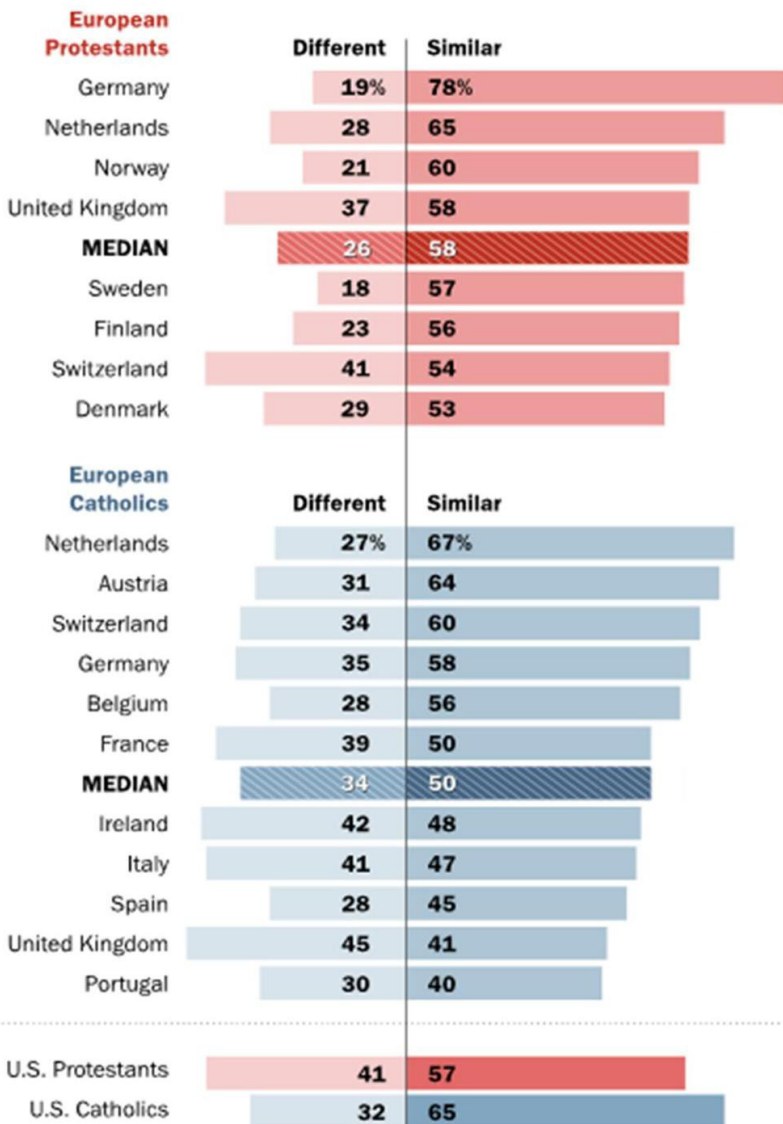
"The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of Spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience" (*The Great Controversy*, 588).

The image of the beast is forming before our eyes as we see these words being fulfilled. When Ellen White penned these prophetic statements over 100 years ago, at that time any hopes of reconciliation between Catholics and Protestants seemed impossible to everyone. But look at the situation today – Protestants can't seem to compromise their faith fast enough! They are running to

Rome for reconciliation and shedding the image of being a "rebellious daughter." They are returning collectively to their "mother church."

The overwhelming majority today see these previously irreconcilable faiths as identical in almost every way. When Rome looks at the Protestant churches she sees an image of herself. This is scary when you think about it because Rome never changes. The goal of Rome has almost been complete, which is to totally abolish the Reformation's "protest." The old, long-standing, historical, Protestant faith with its protest has been an obstacle in preventing Rome from regaining her supremacy in both spiritual and political matters. However, every obstacle that is standing in the way must be removed as Rome achieves her ultimate objective. The Reformation's protest has been silenced – thanks to the disastrous results of the Vatican-Protestant interfaith dialog and cooperation. May this be a warning sign to every Seventh-day Adventist believer.

## Among both Catholics and Protestants in Western Europe and the U.S., more people see their religions as similar than different



"It was by associating with idolaters and joining in their festivities that the Hebrews were led to transgress God's law and bring His judgments upon the nation. So now it is by leading the followers of Christ to associate with the ungodly and unite in their amusements that Satan is most successful in alluring them into sin. 'Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean,' 2 Corinthians 6:17" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 458).

### Seventh-day Adventists Fail to Rein in Non-compliant Workers

On October 9, 2017 at the Annual Council's Executive Committee, Seventh-day Adventists voted to delay a policy that would have forced church leaders at every level to adhere to the decisions made by the church during the General Conference world session.

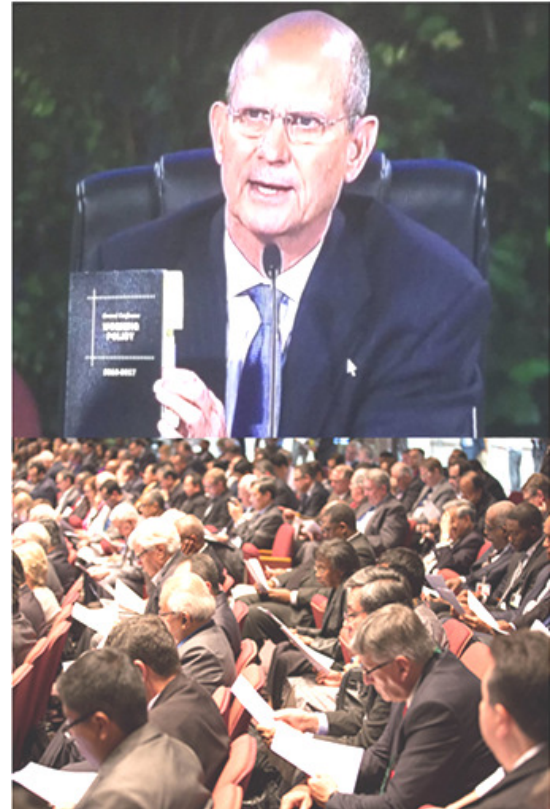
A new, 14-page measure called "Procedures for Reconciliation and Adherence to Church Governance" was introduced to the Executive Committee for discussion and vote. Had this motion been approved it would have granted new powers to executive officers allowing them to "remove and replace leaders who do not follow General Conference Session actions" (Document, page 8, lines 39, 40).

The introduction of this policy stems from the fact that many leaders are not abiding by the church's 2015 "No" vote on women's ordination. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in world session, voted not to allow the ordination of women into the ministry. Since that vote, many conference, union and division entities have chosen to ignore that decision and have continued to ordain women as ministers. This non-compliance has been a source of division and anxiety as certain leaders have openly defied the "authority" of the GC vote.

Seventh-day Adventist World President, Ted Wilson, did his best to explain the importance of adhering to the decisions of the church, especially those made during world session. He explained that decisions made by the church are meant to maintain unity and mission among believers. Pastor Wilson even held up a copy of the General Conference Working Policy and read portions to delegates in a last ditch effort to sway the vote.

As soon as the floor opened for question, debates began. Attempt after attempt was made to delay or derail the new policy. Accusations questioned the "legality" of the policy. Other delegates declared this policy to be another attack against women's ordination. We even heard several persons refer to the laws of this country (the LGBT Supreme Court ruling). The policy was doomed to fail when amendments, second amendments and other motions were proposed on top of the original so delegates became confused and questioned what they were actually voting.

Finally after voting three times on different amendments that were piled on top of the original measure, the real vote finally came up and the original policy that would have forced compliance upon all workers was delayed until next year by a vote of 184 to 114. The Committee on Unity and Mission was given the task of reviewing the policy and making revisions and/or modifications. Until then, the rebellion within our ranks continues.



### "Your Cities are Burned with Fire" Isaiah 1:7

Racially charged riots have been boiling all over North America. Results have been man-made fires, violence, destruction of property and clashes with police. The American dream of peace, liberty and justice for all is turning into a nightmare as many prepare for a race war. Some call it anarchy and others call it a revolution.

All across our nation conflicts between police and minorities escalate. The latest round of race riots started after a white policeman, Jason Stockley, was cleared of killing a young black man, Anthony Smith, 24 when he ran away from the police and was finally shot dead after a chase. 120 people<sup>2</sup> have been arrested after three nights of riots in St. Louis, Missouri when Stockley was acquitted. Soon after, St. Louis was set on fire. Riots, looting, store-front destruction and police cars were smashed.

Accusations of police racism is fueling an age of anger and riots that is responsible for many of the fires and violence in our cities. There are tensions growing and feelings of mistrust among certain segments of society towards law enforcement. These scenes are increasing with frequency in American cities.

These very burnings were prophesied in the Bible: "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken anymore? Ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and

bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. **Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers**" Isaiah 1:4-7.

These violent episodes and deteriorating race relations are the symptoms of a godless and sinful age of the last days. This spiritual crisis is made evident when we see desolation and burning of our cities. God doesn't just tell us why these protests are becoming so destructive; He also tells us how to solve the problem.

"Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land" Isaiah 1:16-19.

### Sources

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.pewforum.org/2017/08/31/after-500-years-reformation-era-divisions-have-lost-much-of-their-potency/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/dozens-arrested-st-louis-readies-protests-49922602>