

# Revelation

Notes #11F

Seal #7 - Trumpet #6: Death & Resurrection

Chapter 11:7-13

## Trumpet

**#6**  
**[Part 9]**

## Description

(7) When they have finished their testimony, **the beast** that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. (8) And their **dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city** which mystically is called **Sodom and Egypt**, where also their Lord was crucified. (9) Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their dead bodies for **three and a half days**, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. (10) And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. (11) But after the three and a half days, **the breath of life** from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. (12) And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them. (13) And in that hour there was a **great earthquake**, and a tenth of the city fell; **seven thousand [7,000] people** were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. (Revelation 11:7-13 NASB)

## Symbology

Beast	Antichrist systems; isms
Great City	Spiritualized Roman church; alias Babylon
Days	Prophetic years
Earthquake	Great shaking of systems, man's religion; atheism
7,000	Completion of what is in view; Seven types of nobility

## Meaning(s)

## Period

**1791-1794 AD**

## Interpretation

**Dechristianisation of France; Victory of God's Word and Conquerors**

As presented in the previous notes, there does appear to be ample evidence that a period of history has occurred that corresponds to 1,260 years of mourning in sackcloth. At the least, there is a window of time in which this could have already occurred. However, it should not come as a surprise that commentators have different start and stop dates within this window.

The most likely scenarios cited by commentators have start dates anywhere from **527-534 AD** and stop dates anywhere from **1787-1794 AD**. Obviously, each has his reason for selecting a particular period that is based on specific historical events.

Now, this leads to the 3½ days that *seem* to immediately follow the 1,260 days. The word *seem* is used because the 3½ days of the death of the two witnesses does not necessarily have to occur immediately upon the cessation of their prophesying. We are not told how long it takes for the beast to come up out of the abyss and make war with them. We also are not told how long the beast wars with them either.

What if the type of testifying and prophesying that is described stops, but the two witnesses continue on for a period of years in some other capacity, even many years, and the death of the witnesses occurs much later, perhaps near the end of the age? Of course, this would lead to another question: What are the two witnesses doing during this long period if they are not prophesying anymore? A lack of a definitive answer to this question may rule out this scenario; nevertheless, it is offered in an attempt to offer other considerations.

Now, if we apply the day-year principle to the 1,260 days, then we must also apply the same principle to the 3½ days, meaning that the period of death and then resurrection must also be in years. The question is whether history reveals a correspondingly precise period.

Some see the beginning of the Reformation as the start date and Luther being the witness that was temporarily silenced (killed) for 3½ years after which he regained his authority to speak out (resurrection). Another suggests that the 3½ days commenced with the Fifth Lateran Council of 1513, at which time the true Church died, and ended with Luther's protest of 1517, at which time the true Church was resurrected. Such scenarios would have start dates for the 1,260 years around 254 AD with the primacy of the Bishop of Rome. Personally, I believe these are rather weak interpretations. Besides, none of these present precise start-stop dates.

After reviewing what many commentators have written on this, I have concluded that it is difficult to nail down *precise* start-stop dates for a 3½-year period in history that corresponds to this death and resurrection. This is not to imply that no such event has occurred in the past. As is presented in what follows, there is most certainly a possibility; however, it is difficult to nail down an exact 3½ years.

### **Beast from the Abyss – Atheism and all Religious *Isms*.**

This is not the first time in Revelation that something comes out of the pit or abyss. Previously, when the Lord brought judgment upon the Eastern Roman Empire [ERE], the pit was opened and locusts released, signifying the rise of Mohammed, Islamism, and the Saracens that swarmed over the eastern region of the empire in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries. The king-angel of the abyss was named *Abaddon* or *Apollyon*, meaning "a destroyer."

Further, the Lord had raised up a false religion to come against the ERE in judgment, and it appears that after the Reformation the Lord raised up another false religion called *atheism* or, we could say, *enlightened thinking and reasoning*, to make war against His two witnesses and kill them. However, there is one major difference; the witnesses ultimately win the war through resurrection.

In his commentary, *John's Revelation Unveiled* (Queensland Presbyterian Theological College, Australia, 2000), Dr. Francis N. Lee adds to this:

"Now the Non-Christian religions (represented by Judaism and Islam) and the false ecclesiastical establishment (represented by the Romish Papacy and the icon-honouring Eastern-"Orthodox" communions) are **never able to silence** the testimony of Christ's true 'Protestant' emissaries for the Word of God. For, although **desiring** to expunge that testimony Judaism and Islam and the Papists and the Eastern-"Orthodox" (as instruments in the '**left**' hand of God) can ultimately **only promote it** (yet **unwillingly and unwittingly**)."

"Meantime, we are told about "the Beast that ascends from the bottomless pit." This probably represents the power of various anti-christian politico-religious establishments (including Islam), but also and especially the Romish Papacy."

It is safe to assume that many forces were at work during this period as a frontal assault on the two witnesses. All these forces combined were set against God's Word and His true Church of conquerors. By the way, many of the reformers saw the Roman church as an apostate church and the office of pope as antichrist, even the beast itself.

## Dechristianisation of France

Now, the one event in history that most closely portrays the death of the two witnesses of the Word of God is known as the dechristianisation of France, which, in part, was a war waged against the Roman church that spread to include all forms of Christianity. It was an attempt to completely remove all semblance of Christianity from France, one of the most powerful nations on earth in that day, and the one nation on earth that was central to the Roman church. In this regard, it was also a war against the conquerors of this era. Consequently, it grew into a war against both the Word of God and the conquerors that held to the Word.

Some of this history has already been covered in Notes #11B, so it won't be repeated here. Instead, let us consider what Barton Warren Johnson (*People's New Testament*) wrote about this period. Keep in mind that this was written in the 1800s (19<sup>th</sup> century), so his reference to "the last century" refers to the end of the 1700s (18<sup>th</sup> century).

*"War was made upon them."* Near the close of the last century the most determined attack ever known was made upon the Bible. Voltaire and Rousseau led in France; Frederick the Great in Germany; Tom Paine, Hume, Gibbon and Bolingbroke in England; Thomas Jefferson and Paine in America. At last the culmination was reached in France. The nation rose in a crusade against all religion. The Convention, composed of the representatives of the mightiest nation then upon the earth, by national law abolished not only the Bible but God. They decreed that France would worship no gods but Reason and Liberty. Atheism became the law of the State."

"This is the only instance known to all history of a deliberate enactment abolishing all religion. Most fitly might such an event be styled the slaying of the witnesses who testify of the Lord. For 1260 years the testimony of the witnesses had been in part suppressed; in 1793 it was enacted that they should testify no more, or henceforth should be silent as death. It was decreed that time should date no more from the Christian era, and that the week itself should be abolished because it was a Bible division of time. Let it be borne in mind: 1. That the war was waged by the power from the bottomless pit; an infidel power. 2. The witnesses were slain by the state which has done more than all others to build up and uphold the temporal power of the Pope. They lie in the *street of the great city*. 3. It is just 1260 years, the prophetic period, from the time when the Pope was styled *Lord of the Church* by imperial authority, until the state of the abolition of the Bible and of God by "the eldest son of the Church," or from A.D. 533 to A.D. 1793."

"After three days and a half the witnesses came to life. This implies that they regain their power and influence. The French "Convention," which inaugurated the Reign of Terror, guillotined all the royal family and many thousand citizens, decreed the dethronement of God, and made itself a terror to mankind, continued in existence for a little more than three years, and in about three and a half years the French nation began to recover from its madness. Its atheistic laws were repealed, and Christianity was acknowledged as the religion of the State. This was not all. The resurrected witnesses were in sackcloth no longer. The age of religious toleration had come. With the beginning of the present century a movement began to sweep over the civilized land in favor of religious liberty."

*"The exaltation of the witnesses* has followed. With the nineteenth century began a mighty movement to extend the circulation of the Bible. It is now translated into every written tongue of the earth, and the Bible societies have made it the cheapest book in the world. To all who are not able to buy it is freely given. All are free to study it for themselves. Ours is also *the age of missions*. At the same time began a movement to preach the truths of the Bible to all nations. The result of this exaltation is that in our age we feel the heaving of a great moral *earthquake*. It is stated that a tenth part of the city shall be shaken down.

Already Rome has lost its hold upon the governments of Italy and France. The trend of events is now towards the falling of the wicked city, the overthrow of its confirmed supporters, and the repentance of the others. These results are in the future; their fulfillment may yet require generations. We cannot name times and seasons, but the result will come."

Key dates during this period were:

- Republic of Virtue (1791-1794)
- Divorce legalized in France (1792)
- New French Revolutionary Calendar (September 22, 1792)
- Cult of Reason (September 22, 1793-March 24, 1794)
- Cult of the Supreme Being (late 1793-July 28, 1794)
- Public worship legalized (February 21, 1795)

No doubt there were spiritual implications to the state legalizing divorce, for it set the stage for the government to divorce itself from God as it killed any and all outward forms of Christianity from public life.

However, it was the new French calendar that was more onerous, for it truly attempted to remove any semblance of Christianity from it.

Wikipedia explains:

"The new French Revolutionary Calendar was created during the Republic of Virtue as well. The first year started on **September 22, 1792**, the beginning of the Republic. Twelve months of exactly thirty days each received new names derived from nature. **Ten-day *décades* replaced the seven-day week, allowing for only one day of rest, eliminating the Sunday of the Christian calendar.** This new calendar remained in practice for only nine years."

Some have proposed that the 3½ days for the death of the two witnesses can be dated according to this atheistic calendar, so reports Michael Kosmidis in his web article *Apocalypse: The Historicist Interpretation*.

"After the proclamation of the First French Republic in September 22, 1792, a new calendar was introduced. The day of the proclamation of the Republic was declared to be day 1 of the first month of the year I. In November 1793, all Christian Churches in Paris were forcibly closed down, and the Christian religion was banned. The Christian God was replaced by the goddess of "Reason" and, later, by the "Supreme Being". The hatred towards Christianity eventually died down, and in **February 21, 1795, which was the beginning of the sixth month of the Revolutionary year III, freedom of religion was restored by law.**"

There is some precedence for this altered calendar defining, at least in measure, the 3½ years. Consider the prophetic word spoken through Daniel. God alone has the right to change the times and epochs, but one of the horns that comes out of the fourth beast (Rome) thinks otherwise.

(20) Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him. (21) "It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding. (22) "It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him. (Daniel 2:20-22 NASB)

(23) "Thus he said: 'The **fourth beast** will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. (24) 'As for the **ten horns**, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. (25) 'He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and **he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.** (26) 'But the court will sit for judgment, and **his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.** (27) '**Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.**' (Daniel 7:23-27 NASB)

Some have made the case that France was one of the ten horns. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that a beast, most likely meaning a system (*ism*) not an individual man, wears down the saints of the Most High, that is, the conquerors, and alters times and laws. This is an apt description of the Republic of Virtue or the so-called Age of Enlightenment or Reason that came out of a worldview of materialism and humanism.

See **Appendix #12 – *Isms*.**

Obviously, there are several dates during this period that speak of a death and resurrection of the Word of God, but the suggestion of the altered French calendar is the only one that actually comes close to defining the 3½ years. All other dates fall short in this regard. For example, the legalization of divorce (1792) and the legalization of public worship once again (1795) are potential start and stop dates, but they do not equal a precise 3½ years. Or, the whole period of the Republic of Virtue (1791-1794), which was truly a time of death for the Word of God, appears to be close to 3½ years, but there are no precise start and stop dates to attach to it.

In the final analysis, if we are to accept this period as the death and resurrection of the two witnesses, we must take comfort in the fact that God knows the precise points in time. Just because we cannot nail it down to the day does not mean that this was not the period in question. It simply means that we are limited in our understanding.

Besides, there does seem to be ample evidence to support this interpretation as made by many commentators. After all, this is the last time in modern history that a leading Christian nation among the nations of the earth has attempted to wipe out Christianity or, remaining with the symbology of the two witnesses, to wipe out the Word of God and all that would adhere to it as conquerors.

However, I must offer one caveat. This does not mean to imply that this could not happen again, especially in our day, for it could most certainly happen given the state of affairs in the world. All one has to do is consider the great spiritual decline that has occurred in Europe over the last few centuries.

In fact, some commentators have stated that France, in particular, never truly recovered from its dechristianisation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Or, closer to home, consider how antichrist America has become as evidenced in our governmental and judicial systems and other facets of our society such as what comes out of the entertainment industry, which often seems like it has a pipeline to the abyss of the "destroyer."

### **Dead Bodies in the Street of the Great City**

And their **dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city** which mystically is called **Sodom and Egypt**, where also their Lord was crucified.

Another facet of John's prophecy deals with the great city.

Again, let us consider some commentary from Dr. Lee.

"It is also true that this "Beast shall make war against" Christ's true emissaries, and "shall overcome them and kill them." Yet the bodies of Christ's true witnesses do **not remain** in the Romish Babylon or on the street of "the great city which spiritually is called 'Sodom-and-Egypt' where also our Lord was crucified." What, then, is this 'Sodom-and-Egypt'? It is not actually either the city of Sodom nor the land of Egypt nor both together. For our Lord was crucified neither in the actual Sodom nor in the actual Egypt, but in the actual Jerusalem. Nor does the inspired John say Christ was crucified in the actual Sodom nor in the actual Egypt. To the contrary. The inspired John clearly says that the place where our Lord was crucified is not actually but rather "**spiritually**" indeed "called 'Sodom-and-Egypt.'" Now the righteous Lot did not remain in Sodom. Nor did either Moses or God's Ancient People remain in Egypt. Nor during the first century did the true Hebrew Christians remain in the 'Sodom-and-Egypt' of the judaized Jerusalem "where also our Lord was crucified." Nor did Gentile Christians later remain in the islamized 'Egypt' of the Dark Ages. And neither would God's true witnesses remain in the "Sodom" and "Egypt" and "Babylon" and Pseudo-Jerusalem of Papal Rome "where also the Lord was crucified" and keeps on being crucified afresh by Romish priests every time they celebrate their so-called 'mass' several times a day. God's true People, then, do not remain in the papal Sodom-and-Egypt. For there one finds especially its 'mass'-ive ongoing crucifixion and *de facto* re-crucifixion of the Saviour."

"The great Calvinistic *Geneva Bible* of Rev. John Knox and Mrs. John Calvin's brother-in-law Rev. Dr. William Whittingham, here makes some extremely luminous comments. It says that the great city which spiritually is called 'Sodom-and-Egypt' means "the whole jurisdiction of the **Pope**. This is compared to Sodom, for their abominable sin and to Egypt, because the true liberty to serve God is taken away from the faithful. And Christ was condemned by Pilate, who represented the Roman power which would be[come] enemy to the godly.""

Of course, all of this relates to what I have called the secondary meaning of the two witnesses, that is, the faithful conquerors; however, the same case could be made for the Word of God as well.

The main point is that the great city is not ancient Jerusalem any more than the true Temple of God is in or will ever be in the ancient or modern-day Jerusalem. There is only one true Jerusalem that is the apple of God's eye and that is the Jerusalem above, the Holy City, the Heavenly Jerusalem, the Temple of the Lord, the Dwelling of God in Spirit, New Jerusalem. All other cities that make a claim on God's Kingdom are counterfeits.

### The Celebration

**And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.**

I think we need to read this figuratively. Keep in mind that during this period the atheistic, antichrist, and enlightened ones saw all their problems as emanating from the visible church of their day, the Roman church. They needed to unshackle the people from this religion. Of course, what they saw outwardly was not the true relational Church of God, the one that sets people free. But by attacking this papist church, they, in essence, were also attacking the true

Church that was a remnant within it or even without it. Besides, as the attack grew, it moved to the Protestants as well, so that all Christians were targets.

When the atheistic republic thought they had achieved victory over Christianity, it was likened to the victors sending gifts to each other.

### **Exalted on High**

**And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them.**

As bad as this might seem, we need to realize that this was God's doing, for it was actually His judgment on the Roman church. The Lord had to bring His Word into death in order to raise it to a new level of life, so to speak. He did this by removing the Roman church's temporal power; a power that has never returned. In so doing, it freed the Word of God to go forth throughout the earth and to raise up a whole company of conquerors in the centuries to follow. With the resurrection of His Word, the Philadelphia church came on the scene and began to evangelize the world; something that has continued, even to our day. It is no coincidence that in 1776 America declared independence, made Philadelphia its first capital, and later established freedom of religion as the law of the land.

The command to "Come up here" was not a command to vacate the earth; rather, it was an exaltation of the Word of God. Going up into heaven in a cloud spiritually speaks of the great cloud of witnesses, that is, the testimony of all the conquerors that had held to and lived by God's Word.

**See Appendix #10 – Great Cloud of Witnesses.**

The many enemies of Christ that thought they had the upper hand on Him now saw that they were in fact defeated. God won the battle! His Word came to life once again in the hearts and minds of many people, and this phenomenon only grew in the years to follow. Truly, this strikes fear in the heart of the enemies of Christ.

Why do you think there is so much assault on God's Word and His people in the world today? The enemies of God know they are defeated, but they refuse to concede defeat.

### **Great Earthquake & the 7,000**

**And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand [7,000] people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.**

Again, we need to understand the great earthquake in spiritual terms. An earthquake shakes up things, and this is exactly what God did in the death and resurrection of His two witnesses that forever changed the Christian world. Henceforth, His Word went forth with a new power and vigor that the enemies of Christ have not been able to curtail since. Again, such a dramatic change strikes fear and terror in the hearts of the enemies of Christ.

Commentators offer several explanations for the tenth of the city falling and the 7,000 being killed. If we assume the earthquake is spiritual or figurative, then we must also assume the tenth and the 7,000 are spiritual or figurative as well.

Again, let us consider Dr. Lee's commentary on the subject.

"Yet others have seen a further fulfilment of the "great earthquake" in the very different and Anti-Christian **French Revolution** of 1789. Indeed, France was one of the ten Horns or Kingdoms of the Neo-Roman Empire. The 1789 French Revolution not only atheized France and polluted many other lands, but it also soon led even to the imprisonment of the Pope in his own Vatican. There is no doubt that all three of those events very much shook up both Romanism and its Papacy. For such was especially the progressive impact of the 1300 earthquake in Rome; the 1517f Protestant Reformation; and the 1789 French Revolution. A century **before** the French Revolution, already Jacques Phillipot wrote in his 1687 *Clarifications of St. John's Revelation*: "As the King of France did his utmost to enhance the glory of Popery it will be the King[dom] of France who shall mostly contribute to her ruin.... The city here mentioned is Babylon that is the Papal Empire, the Church of Rome, the Empire of the Antichrist.... "France is one of the ten horns of the Beast, one of the ten Kingdoms which would be formed according to Daniel out of the debris of the Roman Empire.... According to St. John, she would rise at the same time with the Beast.... The French monarchy, like all the neighbouring states, was established upon the ruins of the Roman Empire and grew at the same time as the Bishop of Rome.... **France** is a place and a part of the **City**; that is, of the **Papal Empire**." Contemporarily with Phillipot, also Pierre Jurieu asked in his 1687 *Accomplishment of the Scripture Prophecies* (II ch. 13): "What is this 'tenth' part of this City which shall fall? In my opinion, we cannot doubt that it is **France**. This **Kingdom** is the most considerable **part** or piece of the **ten Horns** or **states** which once made up the great **Babylonian City** [of Rome]...."

"However, all these things ultimately result in the apparent **conversion** to **Christ** of nine-tenths alias all of the **rest** of the great city of civilized Western Europe. ... When they shall understand by God's Word the glory of His [Name] and the punishment of His enemies **they shall fall [away] from the Pope, and glorify God.**" ... **a large part of the Romish and Anti-Christian hierarchy falls away from the Antichrist**"; and many Romish **priests** become Protestants."

As a side note, I do not necessarily agree with all of Dr. Lee's assertions. In particular, he relates the two witnesses being resurrected to the resurrection of the Protestants that he sees rising to rule the world. I see conquerors in ascendancy, regardless of any other label that might be attached to them. Besides, the Protestant church, which many identify as the Sardis church, has a reputation of being alive, but the Lord's assessment is that it is "dead."

As for the 7,000 that were killed, it has been suggested that this simply means that the overthrow was a total overthrow. The number 7 can signify *divine perfection* or *the completion of that which is in view*. In other words, the spiritual earthquake was totally successful in felling a tenth of the city (France) and the enemies of Christ.

Quoting Michael Kosmidis again, he suggests the following:

"In the original Greek text, it says "names of men seven thousand" and not "of men seven thousand". Names are titles and seven denotes totality, so the interpretation is: Many (times 1000) people who bore all **(7) kinds of titles (names) of nobility** were deprived of their titles."

## Conclusion

Well, this completes the notes on the two witnesses. As you can see, it is a rather involved subject. There does seem to be much merit in relating Revelation 11 to the historical period, starting with Justinian and ending with the French Revolution, the dechristianisation of France, and the victory of God's Word and His conquerors. I do not believe that every detail can be

precisely pinpointed during this period; nevertheless, enough detail can be identified to make it a strong contender, if not the actual fulfillment.

Having made the point, I do feel the need to close with a few thoughts.

First, we must consider the possibility that Revelation 11, in part or whole, may be repeated in the future, not in years but in days. In other words, some of the events associated with the two witnesses may be repeated as our present wicked age comes to an end. If so, again, I believe the secondary application of the two witnesses will be a collective body of conquerors and not two individual prophets. In other words, it will be a corporate witness of the Word of God. By the way, some believe that this fulfillment has already begun.

This point is made to purposely hedge all that has been presented regarding the historicist interpretation. At some point, the historicist and the futurist views must collide or, rather, become one and the same. I am simply holding out the possibility that events indicative of two witnesses may turn out to be that point. We need to be open to the possibility.

Second, the prophesying of the two witnesses was revived and has continued to our day. It has to be this way; otherwise, the resurrection of the witnesses would have no meaning to subsequent generations. Historically, it is a fact that the Word of God exploded on the world scene after this period. To this end, we must also assume that each generation since then has had its 7,000 conquerors.

Third, it was not just the Word of God that was resurrected but also the ongoing testimony of the true Church as expressed through the Law and the Prophets and the spirit of Zerubbabel and Joshua (king-priests) that builds the true Church. The Lord has been building His Church and nothing will stop this great building project. The worse that can happen to the Lord's people is death through martyrdom, but even this is victory, for the gates of Hades (death, the unseen) shall not prevail against God's true Church.

**On this rock I will build my church, and death itself will not have any power over it.** (Matthew 16:18 CEV)

**And upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.** (Matthew 16:18 ASV)

See **Appendix #11 – Gates of Hades (Unseen, Death)**.

Fourth, it was during this dechristianisation period that God raised up a new nation called *America* that, in great measure, was founded as a Christian nation that grew into a mighty nation, including a mighty evangelical powerhouse to bring the gospel to all the nations. As noted in previous notes, the formation of this new Christian nation (**1776**) called **America** constitutionally guaranteed the **freedom of religion (1791)** and was affirmed as a **Christian nation** by its Supreme Court (**1870**). The city of Philadelphia was the place where the **Declaration of Independence** was signed and where the first capital of the new union of states resided. All of this is prophetic of the **Philadelphia** church that is dated from **1776-1914**.

By the way, the word *America* means "celestial" or "heavenly" (*ameri*) and "kingdom" (*ric*). Thus, it speaks of the kingdom of the heavens coming to earth.

Today, in spite of an antichrist spirit that is trying to permeate every facet of our life in America, the Lord still has His 7,000 conquerors that testify of and uphold His Word and His Law.

Finally, in light of this last point, we must be encouraged that since Calvary the Lord has had a faithful remnant. We have seen how the Reformation was the driving force that God used to open up the little book to the masses after a period of great darkness had passed over Europe, as if even the light of God would be snuffed out.

This leads me to one of the great lights that shined brightly in England in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, before the Reformation hit Europe. For many years, I have kept a little pamphlet written by **A.W. Tozer** titled "**3 Faithful Wounds**" (Christian Publications, Inc., Harrisburg, PA.) in which he refers to a prayer by Lady Julian who lived from 1342-1416 AD. Quoting Tozer...

"In order to get launched into my message let me introduce a little lady who has been dead for about six hundred years. She once lived and loved and prayed and sang in the city of Norwich, England. This little woman hadn't much light and she hadn't any way to get much light, but the beautiful thing about her was that, with what little Biblical light she had, she walked with God so wonderfully close that she became as fragrant as a flower. And long before Reformation times she was in spirit an evangelical. She lived and died and has now been with her Lord nearly six hundred years, but she has left behind her a fragrance of Christ."

"England was a better place because this little lady lived. She wrote only one book, a very tiny book that you could slip into your side pocket or your purse, but it's so flavorful, so divine, so heavenly, that it has made a distinct contribution to the great spiritual literature of the world. The lady to whom I refer is the one called the Lady Julian."

"Before she blossomed out into this radiant, glorious life which made her famous as a great Christian all over her part of the world, she prayed a prayer and God answered. It is this prayer with which I am concerned tonight. The essence of her prayer was this:

"O God, please give me three wounds; **the wound of contrition** and **the wound of compassion** and **the wound of longing after God.**" Then she added this little postscript which I think is one of the most beautiful things I have ever read: "This I ask without condition." She wasn't dicker with God. She wanted three things and they were all for God's glory: "I ask this without condition, Father; do what I ask and then send me the bill. Anything that it costs will be all right with me."

The wound of contrition is having a heart of repentance, a contrite heart. The wound of compassion is having a heart that suffers along with other people. The wound of longing after God is having a heart that is lovesick for God.

This is the heart of the faithful remnant. May we be counted among the faithful and be a conqueror to the end!