



SAVED TO SERVE

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THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, PT 6. "HUSS AND JEROME
COUNCIL AT CONSTANCE: HEAL SCHISM & THEN ROOT OUT HERESY.
10.31.17 GERMANY: HEAL DEADLY WOUND & THEN MARTYR "HERETICS"

1. Let us study the sixth chapter in *The Great Controversy*, entitled "Huss and Jerome."

2. What happened as the power of the Pope increased? _____ See Revelation 11:3

The gospel had been planted in Bohemia as early as the ninth century. The Bible was translated, and public worship was conducted, in the language of the people. **But as the power of the pope increased, so the word of God was obscured.** {GC 97.1}

3. Note: These news reports show that the power and popularity of the Pope is increasing.

Pope Francis' popularity among Americans goes from high to higher" <http://www.satrib.com/home/4843425-155/pope-francis-popularity-among-americans-goes>

"Pope Francis More Popular Than Donald Trump, President Barack Obama In US, Survey Shows" <http://www.ibtimes.com/pope-francis-more-popular-donald-trump-president-barack-obama-us-survey-shows-2478489>

"Pope Francis: Still Popular" <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/blog/pope-francis-still-popular>

4a. What did Pope Gregory VII say and do? _____

Gregory VII, who had taken it upon himself to humble the pride of kings, was no less intent upon enslaving the people, and accordingly a bull was issued forbidding public worship to be conducted in the Bohemian tongue. The pope declared that "it was pleasing to the Omnipotent that His worship should be celebrated in an unknown language, and that many evils and heresies had arisen from not observing this rule."--Wylie, b. 3, ch. 1. Thus Rome decreed that the light of God's word should be extinguished and the people should be shut up in darkness. {GC 97.1}

4b. What will happen once the Papacy is gaining world dominance in the time of the Sunday Law crisis? _____

When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, **our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government**, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near. {5T 451.1}

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.** {GC 588.1} **See also Revelation 13:15-17.**

4c. What four points did the saints believe that the Papacy would agree to and honor, in order to comprise and unite with her? _____

The papal leaders, despairing of conquering by force, at last resorted to diplomacy. A compromise was entered into, **that while professing to grant to the Bohemians freedom of conscience, really betrayed them into the power of Rome.** The Bohemians had specified four points as the condition of peace with Rome: **the free preaching of the Bible; the right of the whole church to both the bread and the wine in the communion, and the use of the mother tongue in divine worship; the exclusion of the clergy from all secular offices and authority; and, in cases of crime, the jurisdiction of the civil courts over clergy and laity alike.** The papal authorities at last "agreed that the four articles of the Hussites should be accepted, but that the right of explaining them, that is, of determining their precise import, should belong to the council--in other words, to the pope and the emperor."-- Wylie, b. 3, ch. 18. On this basis a treaty was entered into, and Rome gained by dissimulation and fraud what she had failed to gain by conflict; for, placing her own interpretation upon the Hussite articles, as upon the Bible, she could pervert their meaning to suit her own purposes. {GC 118.1}

4d. How did the group "The United Brethren" come about? _____

As their former brethren, entering into compact with Rome, imbibed her errors, those who adhered to the ancient faith had formed themselves into a distinct church, taking the name of "**United Brethren.**" This act drew upon them maledictions from all classes. Yet their firmness was unshaken. Forced to find refuge in the woods and caves, they still assembled to read God's word and unite in His worship. {GC 119.1}

5. Note: John Huss's mother did not realize that she was preparing her son to preach the word of God, to be brought before the judgment-seat of men to be condemned, to be imprisoned, and to die as a martyr at the stake for Jesus. **The Great Controversy**, page 98.

6a. Note: The following statements show us that God's faithful people will preach the everlasting gospel of Revelation 14:6-12, they will be brought before the judgment-seat of men, they will be imprisoned, they will be martyred for Jesus during the Sunday Law crisis. Even children will be martyrs for Jesus. Therefore, we should be preparing ourselves and our children for this reality.

6b. The two armies will stand distinct and separate, and this distinction will be so marked that many who shall be convinced of truth will come on the side of God's commandment-keeping people. When this grand work is to take place in the battle, **prior to the last closing conflict, many will be imprisoned, many will flee for their lives from cities and towns, and many will be martyrs for Christ's sake in standing in defense of the truth.** {1888 484.1} or {3SM 397.4}

6c. The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. **The mark of the beast will be urged upon us.** Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, **rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death.** The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. {5T 81.1}

6d. "As we were traveling along, we met a company who also were gazing at the glories of the place. **I noticed red as a border on their garments:** their crowns were brilliant; their robes were pure white. As we greeted them, **I asked Jesus who they were. He said they were martyrs that had been slain for Him. With them was an innumerable company of little ones; they also had a hem of red on their garments.**" {EW 18.2}

7a. It was an hour of fearful, terrible agony to the saints. Day and night they cried unto God for deliverance. To outward appearance, there was no possibility of their escape. The wicked had already begun to triumph, crying out, "Why doesn't your God deliver you out of our hands? Why don't you go up and save your lives?" **But the saints heeded them not, Like Jacob, they were wrestling with God.** The angels longed to deliver them, but they must wait a little longer; the people of God must drink of the cup and be baptized with the baptism. So I saw that the people of God, who had faithfully warned the world of His coming wrath, would be delivered. God would not suffer the wicked to destroy those who were expecting translation and who would not bow to the decree of the beast or receive his mark. **I saw that if the wicked were permitted to slay the saints, Satan and all his evil host, and all who hate God, would be gratified.** And oh, what a triumph it would be for his satanic majesty to have power, in the last closing struggle, over those who had so long waited to behold Him whom they loved! Those who have mocked at the idea of the saints' going up will witness the care of God for His people and behold their glorious deliverance. {EW 284.1}

7b. Note: Bear in mind that after probation closes, during the Sunday Law crisis, the time of Jacob's Trouble, there will be no more martyrs.

The eye of God, looking down the ages, was fixed upon the crisis which His people are to meet, when earthly powers shall be arrayed against them. Like the captive exile, they will be in fear of death by starvation or by violence...**if the blood of Christ's faithful witnesses were shed at this time, it would not, like the blood of the martyrs, be as seed sown to yield a harvest for God.** Their fidelity would not be a testimony to convince others of the truth; for the obdurate heart has beaten back the waves of mercy until they return no more. If the righteous were now left to fall a prey to their enemies, it would be a triumph for the prince of darkness. Says the psalmist: "In the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me." Psalm 27:5. {GC 634.1}

8. Whose writings and teachings laid at the foundation of the ministry of Huss and Jerome?

A citizen of Prague, Jerome, who afterward became so closely associated with Huss, had, on returning from England, brought with him the writings of Wycliffe. The queen of England, who had been a convert to **Wycliffe's teachings,** was a Bohemian princess, and through her influence also the Reformer's works were widely circulated in her native country. These works Huss read with interest; he believed their author to be a sincere Christian and was inclined to regard with favor the reforms which he advocated. **Already, though he knew it not, Huss had entered upon a path which was to lead him far away from Rome.** {GC 99.2}

9. Note: The writings of Ellen White, especially the book ***The Great Controversy*** should lay at the foundation of our work of reform.

10. What left a deep impression on the mind of John Huss and also led him to study deeply the Bible and Wycliffe's writings?

About this time there arrived in Prague two strangers from England, men of learning, who had received the light and had come to spread it in this distant land. **Beginning with an open attack on the pope's supremacy, they were soon silenced by the authorities; but being unwilling to relinquish their purpose, they had recourse to other measures. Being artists as well as preachers, they proceeded to exercise their skill. In a place open to the public they drew two pictures.** One represented the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem, "meek, and sitting upon an ass" (Matthew 21:5), and followed by His disciples in travel-worn garments and with naked feet. The other picture portrayed a pontifical procession--the pope arrayed in his rich robes and triple crown, mounted upon a horse magnificently adorned, preceded by trumpeters and followed by cardinals and prelates in dazzling array. **Here was a sermon which arrested the attention of all classes. Crowds came to gaze upon the drawings. None could fail to read the moral,** and many were deeply impressed by the contrast between the meekness and humility of Christ the Master and the pride and arrogance of the pope, His professed servant. **There was great commotion in Prague, and the strangers after a time found it necessary, for their own safety, to depart. But the lesson they had taught was not forgotten.** {GC 99.3}

11. Later on in life, what did John Huss say regarding the paintings of the artists?

In the gloom of his dungeon he foresaw the triumph of the true faith. Returning in his dreams to the chapel at Prague where he had preached the gospel, **he saw the pope and his bishops effacing the pictures of Christ which he had painted on its walls.** "This vision distressed him: **but on the next day he saw many painters occupied in restoring these figures in greater number and in brighter colors.** As soon as their task was ended, the painters, who were surrounded by an immense crowd, exclaimed, "Now let the popes and bishops come; they shall never efface them more!" Said the Reformer, as he related his dream: **"I maintain this for certain, that the image of Christ will never be effaced. They have wished to destroy it, but it shall be painted afresh in all hearts by much better preachers than myself."**--D'Aubigne, b. 1, ch. 6. {GC 108.1}

12. What mental battle did John Huss encounter? How did he solve this mental struggle?

"The mind of Huss, at this stage of his career, would seem to have been the scene of a painful conflict. Although the church was seeking to overwhelm him by her thunderbolts, he had not renounced her authority. **The Roman Church was still to him the spouse of Christ, and the pope was the representative and vicar of God.** What Huss was warring against was the abuse of authority, not the principle itself. This brought on a terrible conflict between the convictions of his understanding and the claims of his conscience. **If the authority was just and infallible, as he believed it to be, how came it that he felt compelled to disobey it? To obey, he saw, was to sin; but why should obedience to an infallible church lead to such an issue? This was the problem he could not solve; this was the doubt that tortured him hour by hour.** The nearest approximation to a solution which he was able to make was that it had happened again, as once before in the days of the Saviour, that the priests of the church had become wicked persons and were using their lawful authority for unlawful ends. This led him to adopt for his own guidance, and to preach to others for theirs, the maxim that the precepts of Scripture, conveyed through the understanding, are to rule the conscience; in other words, that God speaking in the Bible, and not the church speaking through the priesthood, is the one infallible guide."--Wylie, b. 3, ch. 2. {GC 102.1}

13. What were the chief objects of the meeting, or the council at Constance? _____

The chief objects to be accomplished by the council were to heal the schism in the church and to root out heresy. Hence the two antipopes were summoned to appear before it, as well as the leading propagator of the new opinions, John Huss. The former, having regard to their own safety, did not attend in person, but were represented by their delegates. {GC 104.3}

14a. Note: Constance (Konstanz) is a city in Germany.

"You don't shop on Saturday if you live in **Konstanz, Germany**, a 1,400-year-old city of 83,000 people where **the Rhine** meets the Bodensee. That's when carloads of Swiss shoppers queue up to get waved into Germany, single-file, by bored border guards. Thousands of others enter less ceremoniously on foot or bike. http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/roads/2017/03/konstanz_the_german_border_town_under_siege_by_rapacious_swiss_bargain_hunters.html

14b. The following reports show that the Papacy and the Protestants are already taking steps to end the schism and to bring about unity.

14c. **500 years after the Reformation: End the schism!** <https://www.ncronline.org/news/500-years-after-reformation-end-schism>

14d. **After 500 years of schism, will the rift of the Reformation finally be healed?** Pope Francis is beginning a year of events to herald growing cooperation between Protestants and Catholics... **In Germany**, leaders of the Catholic and main Protestant churches have issued a joint text calling for a "healing of memories" of past divisions. An ecumenical pilgrimage to the Holy Land aimed at highlighting common roots despite separation has just concluded. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/29/reformation-luther-pope-francis-catholics>

14e. **On Oct. 31, 2017** there is an official ceremony planned for Wittenberg [Germany]. <http://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/500th-reformation-anniversary-will-be-ecumenical-and-include-pope-francis/44650.htm>

15. Note: On October 31, 2017 in Germany, and in other cities of Europe, the Pope and the Protestants will sign a document ending the schism between Protestants and the Roman Catholic Church.

Somewhere in Pope Francis's office is a document that could alter the course of Christian history. It declares an end to hostilities between Catholics and Evangelicals and says **the two traditions are now "united** in mission because we are declaring the same Gospel". **The Holy Father is thinking of signing the text in 2017**, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, alongside Evangelical leaders... **Francis is convinced that the Reformation is already over.** <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/issues/july-24th-2015/the-popes-great-evangelical-gamble/>

16a. Note: After October 31, 2017, the objective of that ecumenical body will be to identify and root out those who it declares to be heretics.

See also Daniel 7:8,9.

16b. Note: The following are some of the reasons why John Wycliffe and John Huss were declared heretics.

Pointing to his judges, he said firmly: "You condemned Wycliffe and John Huss, not for having shaken the doctrine of the church, but simply because they branded with reprobation the scandals proceeding from the clergy--their pomp, their pride, and all the vices of the prelates and priests. The things which they have affirmed, and which are irrefutable, I also think and declare, like them." His words were interrupted. The prelates, trembling with rage, cried out: **"What need is there of further proof? We behold with our own eyes the most obstinate of heretics!"** {GC 113.2} **See also Matthew 26:64-66.**

16c. Additionally, any group that continues to protest against the sins of the Papacy will be declared heretics and receive persecution.

17. Note: Herod and Pilate healed their schism, their differences, for they were once enemies. Shortly thereafter, they condemned Jesus and put Him to death. See Luke 23:12-25.

18. Note: Since we are seeing a repetition of the meeting or the council at Constance, then the experiences of Huss and Jerome must be ours. Read **The Great Controversy**, page 105, paragraphs 1 and 2. and **The Great Controversy**, page 606, paragraph 2.

19. What did John Huss say when his enemies placed the crown of shame upon his head? Who was he beholding? _____

Sentence having been pronounced, the ceremony of degradation began. The bishops clothed their prisoner in the sacerdotal habit, and as he took the priestly robe, he said: **"Our Lord Jesus Christ was covered with a white robe, by way of insult, when Herod had Him conducted before Pilate."** Being again exhorted to retract, he replied, turning toward the people: "With what face, then, should I behold the heavens? How should I look on those multitudes of men to whom I have preached the pure gospel? No; I esteem their salvation more than this poor body, now appointed unto death." The vestments were removed one by one, each bishop pronouncing a curse as he performed his part of the ceremony. **Finally "they put on his head a cap or pyramidal-shaped miter of paper, on which were painted frightful figures of demons, with the word 'Archheretic' conspicuous in front. 'Most joyfully,' said Huss, 'will I wear this crown of shame for Thy sake, O Jesus, who for me didst wear a crown of thorns.'"** {GC 108.4}

20. What did John Huss say when his enemies gave him the last chance to recant? _____

When he had been fastened to the stake, and all was ready for the fire to be lighted, the martyr was once more exhorted to save himself by renouncing his errors. **"What errors," said Huss, "shall I renounce? I know myself guilty of none. I call God to witness that all that I have written and preached has been with the view of rescuing souls from sin and perdition; and, therefore, most joyfully will I confirm with my blood that truth which I have written and preached."** When the flames kindled about him, he began to sing, **"Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me," and so continued till his voice was silenced forever.** {GC 109.2}

21. What did a papist say after seeing the reaction of Huss and Jerome when they were burned at the stake? _____

Even his enemies were struck with his heroic bearing. A zealous papist, describing the martyrdom of Huss, and of Jerome, who died soon after, said: "Both bore themselves with constant mind when their last hour approached. They prepared for the fire as if they were going to a marriage feast. They uttered no cry of pain. When the flames rose, they began to sing hymns; and scarce could the vehemency of the fire stop their singing." {GC 109.3} **See also Mark 15:37-39.**

22. Note: John Huss should remind us of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. John Huss was the first man to be martyred among the prominent reformers.

23. Where was the mind of Stephen as he was being martyred? Acts 7:54-60 _____

24a. The following statements show that there will be martyrs before the general close of probation.

Zechariah's vision of Joshua and the Angel applies with peculiar force to the experience of God's people in the closing scenes of the great day of atonement. The remnant church will then be brought into great trial and distress. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. {PK 587.2}

Those who are true to God will be menaced, denounced, proscribed. They will be "betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends," even unto death. Luke 21:16. {PK 588.1} *The Great Controversy*, page 608, paragraph 2.

24b. Meditate upon Luke 21:12-16 and write your thoughts _____

25. What did Jerome say and do, as he was pressured to recant or die at the stake? _____

Death at the beginning of his imprisonment would have been a mercy in comparison with the terrible sufferings which he had undergone; but now, weakened by illness, by the rigors of his prison house, and the torture of anxiety and suspense, separated from his friends, and disheartened by the death of Huss, **Jerome's fortitude gave way, and he consented to submit to the council. He pledged himself to adhere to the Catholic faith, and accepted the action of the council in condemning the doctrines of Wycliffe and Huss,** excepting, however, the "holy truths" which they had taught. **By this expedient Jerome endeavored to silence the voice of conscience and escape his doom.** {GC 111.1}

26. Describe the things Jerome encountered in prison. _____

Jerome protested against such cruelty and injustice. **"You have held me shut up three hundred and forty days in a frightful prison," he said, "in the midst of filth, noisomeness, stench, and the utmost want of everything; you then bring me out before you, and lending an ear to my mortal enemies, you refuse to hear me..."** {GC 112.2}

Unmoved by the tempest, Jerome exclaimed: **"What! do you suppose that I fear to die? You have held me for a whole year in a frightful dungeon, more horrible than death itself. You have treated me more cruelly than a Turk, Jew, or pagan, and my flesh has literally rotted off my bones alive; and yet I make no complaint,** for lamentation ill becomes a man of heart and spirit; but I cannot but express my astonishment at such great barbarity toward a Christian." {GC 114.2}

27a. Note: Jerome represented the apostle Peter. Peter denied Jesus in a time of great test. Luke 22:60-62. See also Acts 5:29

27b. The following is another evidence that Jerome's experience mirrored that of Peter. Compare their traits of character.

27c. The two were hereafter united in their lives, and in death they were not to be divided. Brilliancy of genius, eloquence and learning--gifts that win popular favor--were possessed in a pre-eminent degree by Jerome; but in those qualities which constitute real strength of character, Huss was the greater. **His calm judgment served as a restraint upon the impulsive spirit of Jerome,** who, with true humility, perceived his worth, and yielded to his counsels. Under their united labors the reform was more rapidly extended. {GC 102.3}

27d. **Peter was naturally forward and impulsive,** and Satan had taken advantage of these characteristics to overthrow him. {DA 812.3}

27e. Our Saviour understood what ones to associate together. He did not connect with the mild, beloved John one of the same temperament; but He connected with him the ardent, **impulsive Peter.** {Ev 72.3}

28. What did Jesus say to the disciples to prepare them for the hour of trial? Matthew 26:31-35, 38-46; Luke 22:42-48 _____

29. Which one of the Lord's promises was bestowed upon Jerome? _____

To him that day was fulfilled the promise of God to the first disciples: "Ye shall be brought before governors and kings for My sake. . . . But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." Matthew 10:18-20. {GC 112.3}

30. What did Jerome say when he was about to die? _____

He was led out to the same spot upon which Huss had yielded up his life. He went singing on his way, his countenance lighted up with joy and peace. His gaze was fixed upon Christ, and to him death had lost its terrors. When the executioner, about to kindle the pile, stepped behind him, the martyr exclaimed: **"Come forward boldly; apply the fire before my face. Had I been afraid, I should not be here."** His last words, uttered as the flames rose about him, were a prayer. **"Lord, Almighty Father," he cried, "have pity on me, and pardon me my sins; for Thou knowest that I have always loved Thy truth."** His voice ceased, but his lips continued to move in prayer. When the fire had done its work, the ashes of the martyr, with the earth upon which they rested, were gathered up, **and like those of Huss, were thrown into the Rhine.** {GC 114.8}

31. What is the Lord's promise to us? _____

We will not be able to meet the trials of this time without God. **We are not to have the courage and fortitude of martyrs of old until brought into the position they were in.** . . . We are to receive daily supplies of grace for each daily emergency. Thus we grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and if persecution comes upon us, if we must be enclosed in prison walls for the faith of Jesus and the keeping of God's holy law, "As thy days, so shall thy strength be." **Should there be a return of persecution there would be grace given to arouse every energy of the soul to show a true heroism....** {OHC 125.4}

32. Meditate upon the following and write your thoughts _____

"The disciples were not endowed with the courage and fortitude of the martyrs until such grace was needed. Then the Saviour's promise was fulfilled." {DA 354.3}

"A great work is to be accomplished; broader plans must be laid; a voice must go forth to arouse the nations. Men whose faith is weak and wavering are not the ones to carry forward the work at this important crisis. **We need the courage of heroes and the faith of martyrs.**" {5T 187.4}

"There is a picture representing **a bullock standing between a plow and an altar,** with the inscription, **'Ready for either,'** ready to toil in the furrow or to be offered on the altar of sacrifice. **This is the position of the true child of God--willing to go where duty calls, to deny self, to sacrifice for the Redeemer's cause.**" {MH 502.5}