

# **The End of Time**

**A REMARKABLY COMPLETE COLLECTION  
OF  
SPIRIT OF PROPHECY STATEMENTS  
ON FINAL EVENTS**

**BOOK ONE**

**EVENTS BEFORE  
THE CLOSE OF PROBATION**

HB-3600

*Linking the Last Days*

*A Study Guide to*

*The 18-Volume*

*End Time Booklet Series*

by Vance Ferrell

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by Vance Ferrell

“The great controversy is nearing its end . . . Is there a Christian whose pulse does not beat with quickened action as he anticipates the great events before us?” (*Ev 219*).

“To us who are standing on the very verge of their fulfillment, of what deep moment, what living interest, are these delineations of the things to come—events for which, since our first parents turned their steps from Eden, God’s children have watched and waited, longed and prayed (*PK 731*)!

“Look up, look up, and let your faith continually increase. Let this faith guide you along the narrow path that leads through the gates of the city into the great beyond, the wide, unbounded future of glory that is for the redeemed” (*PK 732*).

“All heaven is astir, engaged in preparing for the day of God’s vengeance, the day of Zion’s deliverance. The time of tarrying is almost ended. The pilgrims and strangers who have so long been seeking a better country are almost home. I feel as if I must cry aloud, *Homeward bound!* Rapidly we are nearing the time when Christ will come to gather His redeemed to Himself” (*EV 219*).

Here are the abbreviations and books on which this book, and the companion eight *End Time Series* booklets, are based. (The Spirit of Prophecy lists are alphabetized by abbreviations, not by book titles.)

**NSL** - National Sunday Law

**#1 (#2-18)** - End Time Series Booklets, Bk 1 (2-18)

**Ms** - Manuscript

***Spirit of Prophecy Books - Currently in Print***

**AA** - Acts of the Apostles

**AG** - God’s Amazing Grace

**AH** - Adventist Home

**IBC, etc.** - SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 7A

**CC** - Conflict and Courage

**CDF** - Counsels on Diet and Foods

**CG** - Child Guidance

**ChS** - Christian Service

**CL** - Country Living

**CM** - Colporteur Ministry

**COL** - Christ’s Object Lessons

**CS** - Counsels on Stewardship

**CSW** - Counsels on Sabbath School Work

**CT** - Counsels to Parents and Teachers

**DA** - Desire of Ages

**Ed** - Education

**Ev** - Evangelism

**EW** - Early Writings

**FE** - Fundamentals of Christian Education

**FL** - Faith I Live By

**FW** - Faith and Works

**GC** - Great Controversy

**GW** - Gospel Workers

**HP** - Heavenly Places

**KH** - That I May Know Him

**LDE** - Last Day Events

**LHU** - Lift Him Up

**LS** - Life Sketches

**Mar** - Maranatha

**MB** - Mount of Blessing

**1 (2) MCP** - Mind, Character, and Personality, Vol. 1 (2)

**MH** - Ministry of Healing

**ML** - My Life Today

**MM** - Medical Ministry

**1 (2-21) MR** - Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1

**MYP** - Messages to Young People

**OHC** - Our High Calling

**PK** - Prophets and Kings

**PM** - Publishing Ministry

**PP** - Patriarchs and Prophets

**RC** - Reflecting Christ

**RY** - Retirement Years

**SC** - Steps to Christ

**SD** - Sons and Daughters of God

**1 (2-4) SG** - Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 1 (2-4)

**SL** - Sanctified Life

**1 (2-3) SM** - Selected Messages, Book 1 (2-3)

**1 (2) Ser** - Sermons and Talks, Vol 1 (2)

**SR** - Story of Redemption

**1 (2-9) T** - Testimonies, Vol. 1 (2-9)

**Te** - Temperance

**TM** - Testimonies to Ministers

**TSB** - Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce

**UL** - Upward Look

**WM** - Welfare Ministry

**VSS** - Voice in Speech and Song

***Spirit of Prophecy Periodical Articles***

**AST** - Australian Signs of the Times

**BE** - Bible Echoes

**GCB** - General Conference Bulletin

**RH** - Review and Herald

**ST** - Signs of the Times

***Spirit of Prophecy Books - more difficult to find***

**CME** - Call to Medical Evangelism and Health Education

**GSC** - God’s Seventh Commandment

**HCE** - History of Christian Education

**HL** - Healthful Living

**HTL** - How to Live

**LLM** - Loma Linda Messages

**LP** - Life of Paul

**MMM** - Medical Missionary Manual

**SA** - Solemn Appeal

**ST-A (B)** - Special Testimonies, Series A (B)

**SW** - Southern Work

**UT** - (Spalding-Magan) Unpublished Testimonies

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# INTRODUCTION

You have in hand what is apparently the most complete collection of Spirit of Prophecy quotations on final events, from the enactment of the National Sunday Law onward. This collection is categorically arranged.

All of the final events are keyed to one or another of five key events. (Because final events are so frequently mentioned, initial caps are only used for “Sunday,” “Voice” (in Voice of God), and the names of divinity.)

- 1 - The U.S. national Sunday law.
- 2 - The general close of probation.
- 3 - The Voice of God.
- 4 - The second coming of Christ.
- 5 - The third coming of Christ.

Chapter One deals with a few events which will throw us into the U.S. national Sunday law.

Chapter Two deals with the enactment of that law.

Chapters Three to Eleven are concerned with events which occur between the U.S., law's initial enactment, and the general close of probation. Many of those events tend to run simultaneously with one another. But there are exceptions. For example, the loud cry of the fourth angel begins part way through that period. We will spend more time on this cluster of events than on any other.

Why did Ellen White write more about events prior to the close of probation? Because when probation closes, it is too late to make changes.

The decisions we are today making, along with the words and actions accompanying them, will greatly affect what we will do when the coming crisis suddenly breaks upon us all. It is urgent that we now study and, by faith in Christ, carefully obey what is written in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.

The entire final crisis explodes into action, as soon as a National (federal) Sunday Law is enacted in the United States. That event will catapult the entire world into the future windup of human affairs. All other final events find their reference point in that moment in time.

The statements are clear that the National Sunday Law will quickly set into operation a surprising number of other important occurrences. One factor which will greatly accelerate the process is that, when the law is enacted, Satan will be permitted to unleash, through the churches, a holocaust of spiritist activity of various kinds.

Decades of increasing violation of the ten com-

mandments by individuals, families, businesses, and governments has produced immorality, fiscal irresponsibility, confusion, crime, terror, and bloodshed. The mounting problems will lead the nation and then the entire world to the adoption of draconian governmental Sunday laws.

As the time for the national Sunday law nears, churchmen, desperate for power, will welcome a strange excitement that appears to be working in some of the churches. Evil spirits will prompt those leaders with the idea that the only solution is governmentally mandated Sundaykeeping. On this issue of Sunday legislation, apostate Protestant churches and the Vatican will find themselves in closer harmony than ever before.

As a result, Protestantism and Catholicism will reach across the gulf and form a union.

The sense of spiritist power undergirding it, will help impel Catholicism and the fallen Protestant churches to lay aside their differences and form a close working union to achieve commonly held objectives. Their willingness to move into line on the Sunday issue will bring a response of approving spiritist manifestations. Even though based on shallow appearances and emotional highs, the powerful excitement—which will immediately follow its passage—will be accepted as proof that Sundaykeeping is the will of God for the nations. The awareness that hidden spirit power is sensed, as they work toward Sunday legislation, will prompt a move toward forming a solid union of denominations, representing millions of members determined to force the U.S. Congress to enact a binding National Sunday Law.

There is only one issue which can unite Protestantism, Catholicism, the labor unions, and U.S. legislators on all levels—and that is a rather strict Sunday law. (“Rather strict,” for it may or not forbid public entertainments. The emphasis of the law will be on worship attendance, and a cessation of normal employment and visible work at one's home.)

The improvement of morals and health, and a general return to God will be declared to be important objectives.

A coalition of Protestant churches will lead out in pressuring politicians, desperate for solutions, to enact a National Sunday Law. That legislation may initially be enacted as a political favor; that is, the secular politicians will pass it, not really believ-

ing it will accomplish any more than their obtaining additional political backing from a suddenly-energized religious right.

But enactment of that law will quickly, dramatically change everything! It will open the floodgates of satanic manifestations in the United States, as well as the entire world. Mankind will be thrown into the final crisis. About four dozen events will rapidly follow, which will plunge the world on a fast track to the Second Coming of Christ.

The important question is this: What will be the first event in the entire series of occurrences leading to the Second Advent? The second event will be the threefold union. But another will precede it.

Each chapter will conclude with pertinent quotations from a generally-unpublished study, called *The Last Days*.

## STUDY GUIDE to The End Time Booklet Series

# Eventline: Counterfeit Revival to Eternity Beyond

### FIRST TIME PERIOD

Beginning of the End. Once begun, continues on, and swells in intensity after the NSL.

#### **SATANIC EXCITEMENT IN THE U.S.—**

accepted by certain churches, brings them under his control.

### SECOND TIME PERIOD

**THREEFOLD UNION**—of Protestantism, Catholicism, and Spiritualism.

### THIRD TIME PERIOD

#### **NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW—**

Remains unrepealed till the Second Advent.

- 1 - U.S. Government coerced to enact the NSL.
- 2 - National Sunday Law is actually passed.

- 3 - Enactment produces **WORSHIP OF THE BEAST** and **FORMATION OF THE IMAGE OF/TO THE BEAST**.

### FOURTH TIME PERIOD

SEALING AND MARKING SEQUENCES OF THOSE IN U.S.—

#### **A - SEALING SEQUENCE:**

SABBATHKEEPERS IN THE U.S. ALREADY KNOW THE ISSUES, MUST DECIDE TO IMMEDIATELY OBEY OR DISOBEY, AND CHOOSE THE RIGHT—and rapidly receive the SEALING SEQUENCE, which is:

(Events occur to people as individuals, not as groups.)

- 1 - **Shaking and Sifting** in U.S. Adventist Church climaxes as church is purified of false brethren. (Both active and former church members make their choice.) (The “church” consists of believers, and we are nowhere told that it will have a humanly organized structure after the NSL.)
- 2 - **Sealing** of U.S. Sabbathkeepers rapidly occurs.
- 3 - **Judgment of the Living** begins.
- 4 - **Blotting out of Sins** from the heavenly Book of Records begins.
- 5 - **Individual Close of Probation** begins.
- 6 - True **Latter Rain** begins, as soon as Seal is applied to an individual.
- 7 - **Loud Cry** of Third Angel begins, as message of Rev 14:6-12 and Matt 25:6 is proclaimed by the faithful.
- 8 - **Little Time of Trouble** begins for God’s people: Flight and witnessing will occur. There will be persecution; court appearances; imprisonment; and, for some, death.
- 9 - **Fourth Angel** will come down and greatly strengthen their witness to the world, and render it immensely convictive.

#### **B - Satanic Manifestations—**

- 1 - **False Latter Rain** begins in U.S., and swells to massive proportions.
- 2 - **Calamities** begin for worldlings: satanically caused strife, warfare, and disasters.

#### **C - MARKING SEQUENCE:**

SABBATHKEEPERS IN THE U.S. ALREADY KNOW THE ISSUES, MUST DECIDE TO IMMEDIATELY OBEY OR DISOBEY, AND CHOOSE THE WRONG—

and rapidly receive the MARKING SEQUENCE, which is:

- 1 - **Shaking and Sifting** in U.S. Adventist Church (by members and former members) climaxes as many forsake the truth.
- 2 - **Marking** of U.S. Sabbathkeepers rapidly occurs.
- 3 - **Judgment of the Living** begins.
- 4 - **Blotting out of Names** from Book of Life begins.
- 5 - **Individual Close of Probation** begins.
- 6 - **Former believers**, embossed with a satanic spirit, become leading enemies of the truth and those proclaiming it.
- 7 - They are bound in bundles with the wicked.

#### FIFTH TIME PERIOD

##### UNIVERSAL SUNDAY LAW—

- 1 - **Satan appears** in various parts of the world.
- 2 - **False Latter Rain** and **Calamities** spread to other nations.
- 3 - Under the Threefold Union, with coercion, the U.S. Government gets other nations throughout the world to enact their own NSLs.
  1. First, throughout the so-called Christian nations.
  2. Second, throughout the non-Christian nations.

The resultant laws are known by the general term, the **Universal Sunday Law**.
- 4a - **Sabbathkeepers** in other nations know the issues, choose the **right**, and receive the **Sealing sequence**.
- 4b - **Sabbathkeepers** in other nations know the issues, choose the **wrong**, and receive the **Marking sequence**.
- 5a - **Non-Sabbathkeepers** in other nations learn the issues, choose the **right**, and receive the **Sealing sequence**.
- 5b - **Non-Sabbathkeepers** in other nations learn the issues, choose the **wrong**, and receive the **Marking sequence**.
- 6 - **Intense persecution** of God's people throughout the world.

#### SIXTH TIME PERIOD

##### GENERAL CLOSE OF PROBATION

Events at General Close of Probation:

- 1 - Christ throws down the censer of intercession. Grace, the atonement, and forgiveness has forever ended.

- 2 - The marriage of Christ to His kingdom and to His church occurs in the Most Holy Place.
- 3 - Christ stands up, and leaves His position of intercession before the Father.
- 4 - Christ tarries for a moment in the outer apartment and, as priest, places the sins of the righteous on Satan, who will bear them in the final punishment of sin.
- 5 - Christ then removes His priestly garments, puts on garments of vengeance, and leaves the Sanctuary, preparatory to returning to earth. He is no longer a Priest, but a soon-returning King.

#### SEVENTH TIME PERIOD

##### GREAT TIME OF TROUBLE

Events between General Close of Probation and the Voice of God:

- 1 - False Revival continues to keep people in deception.
- 2 - Four winds are loosed as Satan is permitted to bring severe calamities upon the wicked.
- 3 - Angels from heaven begin pouring the Seven Last Plagues upon the wicked.
- 4 - Great Time of Trouble begins for the faithful.
- 5 - The faithful are blamed for the disasters.
- 6 - Heavy persecution of the faithful, but none are slain.
- 7 - The Death Decree is enacted.
- 8 - The crisis for the faithful swells into Jacob's Trouble.
- 9 - The last of the faithful flee from urban areas.
- 10 - The Death Decree is slated to take effect at midnight.

#### EIGHTH TIME PERIOD

##### VOICE OF GOD

Events from Voice of God to Second Advent:

- 1 - Twelve rapid events occur, including about 50 subsidiary events.
- 2 - Christ's journey to earth.

#### NINTH TIME PERIOD

##### SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST

Events at the Second Coming of Christ:

- 1 - Jesus returns for His people.
- 2 - The wicked are slain by the brightness of His coming.
- 3 - The righteous dead are raised.
- 4 - The righteous living are translated without seeing death.

- 5 - Both are glorified and caught up to meet Christ in the air.
- 6 - Satan and his angels are bound to this world.
- 7 - The sins of the righteous are rolled back on Satan.

#### *TENTH TIME PERIOD*

##### **THE MILLENNIUM**

Events during the thousand years:

- 1 - The earth is desolate.
- 2 - The wicked are dead.
- 3 - Satan and his angels are bound to this earth.
- 4 - The righteous are taken to heaven with Jesus.
- 5 - Arriving there, they stand on the sea of glass outside the gate and receive their overcomers' crowns.
- 6 - They enter through the gate, and behold the Holy City, the Garden of Eden, the throne, and the tree of life.
- 7 - With Jesus, they begin the sentencing judgment of the wicked.

#### *ELEVENTH TIME PERIOD*

##### **THE THIRD ADVENT**

Events from the Third Advent to the Destruction of the Wicked:

- 1 - Christ and the redeemed return to the earth.
- 2 - He descends upon the Mount of Olives, and flattens and purifies a large area.
- 3 - The Holy City descends and alights on that area.
- 4 - Christ and the faithful enter the city, emerge once again, and Christ calls the wicked to life.
- 5 - Christ and the redeemed reenter the city.
- 6 - Satan immediately enlists the wicked in a plan to conquer the city.
- 7 - Preparations are completed, and the march is begun.
- 8 - The city is encircled and Christ and the redeemed appear above the walls.
- 9 - The saints sing praises to Jesus.
- 10 - The sentencing begins.
- 11 - The wicked acknowledge God's justice.
- 12 - Satan finally does also.
- 13 - The fire falls, destroying the wicked and purifying the earth.
- 14 - The great controversy is entirely ended.

#### *TWELFTH TIME PERIOD*

##### **ETERNITY BEYOND**

A brief overview of eternal life with Christ:

- 1 - Earth is the home of the redeemed.
- 2 - The faithful live in homes by the broad streams.
- 3 - They will garden; study natural science and the plan of redemption; converse with one another, angels, and unfallen intelligences; and travel to other worlds.
- 4 - They will frequently break into song and sing praises to God and to the Lamb.
- 5 - They will gather to worship the Creator on the holy Sabbath.

# **END OF TIME SERIES**

## **An Expanded Spirit of Prophecy Study**

By Pastor Vance Ferrell

### **Contents**

- 1 - The Counterfeit Revival and The Threefold Union**
- 2 - The National Sunday Law**
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- 5 - The Seal and the Mark**
- 6 - Perfection of Character**
- 7 - The Judgment Passes to the Living and The Blotting Out of Sin**
- 8 - The Marriage in the Most Holy Place**
- 9 - The Latter Rain**
- 10 - The Loud Cry**
- 11 - The Little Time of Trouble**
- 12 - The Close of Probation**
- 13 - The Great Time of Trouble**
- 14 - The Voice of God**
- 15 - The Second Coming of Christ**
- 16 - The Ascension and Millennium**
- 17 - The Third Advent of Christ**
- 18 - The Eternity Beyond**

We urgently need a clearer understanding of coming events. That knowledge can help protect us from a variety of errors when they are presented.

**(NOTE-** This series has not only the more common quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy, but also many rare and even some unpublished material.)

## END OF TIME SERIES

### 1. THE COUNTERFEIT REVIVAL AND THE THREEFOLD UNION

It is crucial that you and I obtain a clear understanding of last-day events. The God of heaven wanted us to have this information, so He wrote it out in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. We urgently need to dig out that information and bring it together. This present series of studies does just that. It is based on the most complete compilation of final event statements in the Spirit of Prophecy that has ever been compiled.

This series will provide you with an overview of these events, so you can easily learn them. But more: you can share with your friends and loved ones, so they can learn more about what is soon to come in our world as a shock.

The decisions we are today making, along with the words and actions accompanying them, will greatly affect what we will do when the coming crisis suddenly breaks upon us all. It is urgent that we now study and, by faith in Christ, carefully obey what is written in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. It is my concern that these video studies-and the written studies they are based on-will help you and your loved ones be better prepared for what is so soon to come on the earth.

Let us now begin. First, let us consider the

#### **FIVE LANDMARK EVENTS**

– between us and eternity:

It is easiest to learn information, when you have other information to tie it to. All of the final events are connected to one or the other of five key events. Here are these events:

- 1 - The U.S. national Sunday law.
- 2 - The general close of probation.
- 3 - The Voice of God.
- 4 - The second coming of Christ.
- 5 - The third coming of Christ.

The first grouping of final events begins with events, which throw us into the national Sunday law, and several events, which follow. That group of events will end with the general close of probation. All of these events, which occur before the general close of probation, are especially important for us—and for the entire world.

The crisis itself will be keyed to the U.S. enactment of a strict national Sunday law. That event will catapult us into the future wind-up of human affairs. All other events around it will find their reference point in that moment in time.

The national Sunday law will very quickly set into operation a surprising number of other important occurrences. Therefore, much of the present section of this study will consist of connecting this law to other: related events before and after it, and those events to still others.

Here is—

#### **A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HOW IT WILL BEGIN**

Decades of increasing violation of the ten commandments by individuals, families, businesses, and governments has produced immorality, fiscal irresponsibility, confusion, crime, terror and bloodshed. The mounting problems will lead the nation-and then the entire world-to the adoption of draconian governmental Sunday laws.

When the amount of decadence reaches a certain point, Satan will be permitted to work more openly. Desperate for power, churchmen will welcome a strange excitement that appears to be working in the churches. Evil spirits will prompt those leaders with the idea that the only solution is governmentally-mandated Sunday keeping. On this issue of Sunday legislation, apostate Protestant churches and the Vatican will find themselves in closer harmony than ever before.

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It will be the sense of spiritist power undergirding it, that will impel Catholicism and the fallen Protestant churches to lay aside their differences and form a close working union to achieve commonly-held objectives. Their willingness to move into line on the Sunday issue will bring a response of approving spiritist manifestations. Even though based on shallow appearances and emotional highs, the powerful excitement will be accepted as proof that Sunday keeping is the will of God for the nations. The awareness that hidden power is being made available as they work toward Sunday legislation, will prompt them to move forward in forming a solid union of denominations, representing millions of members, determined to force the U.S. Congress to enact a binding national Sunday law.

A coalition of Protestant churches will lead out in pressuring politicians, also desperate for solutions,—to enact a national Sunday law.

That legislation will initially be enacted as a political favor; that is, the secular politicians will enact it to the increasingly-powerful religious right, thinking that all they are doing is fulfilling just another political favor. Little do they realize that they have opened the door to something, which when it enters, they cannot control.

But enactment of that law will suddenly, dramatically change everything! It will open the floodgates of Satanic manifestations upon, not only the United States, but the entire world.

And we will suddenly be thrown into the final crisis. About four dozen events will rapidly follow, which will carry us down to the second coming of Christ.

An important question is this: What will be the first event in the final events which will bring on the second coming of Christ?

What will be the special event, which will throw us into the national Sunday law?

It is true that many other predicted events both precede and accompany the events during the final crisis. These include wars and rumors of wars, capital and racial conflicts, natural disasters, and crises in the cities.

But there are certain events, which we term the “closing events.” What is the very first of these?

Let us now look at

– **EVENT 1** –

### **THE EXCITEMENT**

That first event will be a very unusual excitement in the Sunday-keeping churches. Read this: Early Writings, page 261:

“I saw that God has honest children among the nominal Adventists and the fallen churches, and **before the plagues** shall be poured out, ministers and people will be called out from these churches and will gladly receive the truth. Satan knows this; and **before the loud cry** of the third angel is given, **he raises an excitement in these religious bodies, that those who have rejected the truth may think that God is with them.** He hopes to deceive the honest and lead them to think that God is still working for the churches.”-Early Writings, 261:1.

As we will discuss later, the latter rain comes at the beginning of the loud cry; and just after the national Sunday law. But the counterfeit revival-Satan’s counterfeit of the latter rain-will precede the true latter rain upon God’s people. It will appear to be God’s blessing upon the disobedient churches. Satan will use it to extend his influence over the Christian world.

This counterfeit revival will be the first event; the event which catapults our nation into the national Sunday law.

Here is the order of four special events:

- (1) the counterfeit revival.
- (2) the national Sunday law.
- (3) the latter rain.
- (4) the loud cry.

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Here is a second important statement: Great Controversy, 464:

“Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth, there will be, **among the people of the Lord, such a revival of primitive godliness** as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The **Spirit and power of God will be poured out** upon His children. . Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time, to prepare a people for the Lord’s second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; **and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it, by introducing a counterfeit.** In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power, **he will make it appear that God’s special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them,** when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, **Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.** -Great Controversy, 464:2

But, now –

### WHY IS IT EXCITING?

What did we learn from the two statements we have already read?

First - It is an excitement.

Second - It occurs among the “fallen churches,” among the “nominal Adventists,” “in those religious bodies which have rejected the truth,” and “in those churches which he [Satan] can bring under his deceptive power.”

What causes the excitement?

- 1 -It is a counterfeit outpouring of a spirit which occurs before the true latter rain.
- 2 - It will appear that God’s special blessing is being given.
- 3 - It is thought by the people that a great, new religious interest has occurred.
- 4 - They think God is working marvelously for them.

Of course, all that reminds us of the celebration churches-showing us that they are very significant, and very dangerous. We should have nothing to do with them. Something like them-will suddenly erupt into a stupendous excitement which will win so much favor from the general public-that the U.S. Congress will yield to the demand of Protestant churches for a national Sunday law.

Why will the churches welcome this excitement?

- 1 - There will be a supernatural power, which will give these churches greater influence over the secular multitudes.
- 2 - There will be great emotional excitement and healings.
- 3 - But, especially important to them, –there will also be church growth –large increases in attendance and membership. Mark it well: the excitement will appear to cause the church growth, and it will be called the “great power of God.”

Beware! Beware! Any denomination or local church which tries to use excitement to increase membership is on dangerous ground.

And, conversely, any religious organization which is willing to do whatever it takes including sacrificing church standards and beliefs –to gain more members –is on dangerous ground!

Any church doing such a thing will ere long be overcome by Satan, unless it repents and returns to right practices. It will become “one of those churches which he [Satan] can bring under his deceptive power.”

Here is a companion prediction regarding what will happen at the end of time, before probation closes:

We are told there will be shouting, drums, music, and dancing.

“The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, the Lord has shown me would take place **Just before the close of probation.** Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. **There will be**

## END OF TIME SERIES

**shouting, with drums, music, and dancing.** The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions.

“A **bedlam of noise** shocks the senses and perverts that which if conducted aright might be a blessing. **The powers of satanic agencies blend with the din and noise** to have a carnival, and this is termed the Holy Spirit’s working. . Those things which have been in the past will be in the future. Satan will make music a snare by the way in which it is conducted.” -2 Selected Messages, 36:23, 38:1.

So there are at least four factors that are part of the excitement:

- 1 - Satanic power-through a counterfeit outpouring.
- 2 - Great emotional excitement and-as we will learn later-healings.
- 3 - Great apparent religious interest, and large increases in church membership.
- 4 - Drums and wild music-called the “Holy Spirit’s working.” But there is a fifth factor:
- 5 - That excitement will bring the churches together!

### SATANIC EXCITEMENT PREPARES CHURCHES FOR THE UNION

Now for the question: How can we know that this excitement is the key, first event which will bring on all the other final events?

We can know for two reasons:

First - We can know that there will be excitement –plenty of it –in the churches, from the union of churches onward till the close of probation and onward to the sounding of the Voice of God. The statements are clear on this. The beginning of that excitement comes just before the national Sunday law. *THIS is the beginning of that excitement!* Second –It is this excitement, which brings on the union of churches!

There is yet something else that this excitement accomplishes; indeed, something that helps make the excitement! This excitement is the beginning, in a very real way, of the reaching across the gulf by the forces of spiritism, Protestantism, and Catholicism to clasp their hands together!

The loud cry, which will begin shortly afterward, will bring warning to all the world that it must obey God’s holy ten-commandment law-and not hallow the Sunday, as commanded by the national Sunday law. But, a little before the loud cry, Satan will raise an excitement in the fallen churches which will unify them in their attainment of certain objectives.

Let us now turn our attention to –

– **EVENT 2** –

### THE THREEFOLD UNION

To begin with, just what is the threefold union?

It will be a religious confederation of three major groups: the Sunday keeping Protestant churches, the Roman Catholic church, and the varied elements and manifestations of Spiritism (also called “Spiritualism”). These three forces will unite in their common objective of enacting legislation enforcing one erroneous religious teaching. Their corrupt confederation will first take shape in the United States. Having achieved success in that nation, they will then successfully press for similar governmental decrees in other nations. As soon as that law is enacted in a given nation, its government will have formed an image-of-an image-to-the beast.

Men have tried for over a century to bring the churches together. But the event which will “finally do it-will be an the astounding power from beneath. It will generate an energized excitement in the churches.

At last, it will appear that the world is coming into the churches!

Remember this: When men adopt wrong principles in order to obtain power and authority, they invite the control of demons.

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Then the demons are permitted to work as they wish. In this case, they will bring great excitement, and men will interpret it as deeper spirituality and the favor of God.

Then the demons will whisper two things which must be done to please God:

First - Unite the churches.

Second - Unify them in certain doctrines. It will be the unity on doctrine which will “unite the churches.”

So then, how will the churches unite on those doctrines? They will unite on them— by the enactment of national Sunday laws.

Which churches will be united? The Sunday keeping churches of Christendom: the Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox churches. Now, let us consider

### THE PROTESTANT-CATHOLIC UNION OF CHURCHES

We say it will be a “threefold union.” Yes, it will be a threefold union, but, to human eyes, it will only appear to be a twofold union. Although Spiritistic forces will empower what is done, yet it will be human agencies Protestant and Catholic –which will do it. True to his usual cunning, Satan will display his great power, without revealing its source. The crisis will come when Protestants and Catholics unite to coerce governments into enacting harsh Sunday laws. Here is how closely this confederation will tie them together:

First, it will be a fellowship.

“**Protestantism shall give the hand of fellowship to the Roman power.** Then there will be a law against the Sabbath of God’s creation, and then it is that God will do His ‘strange work’ in the earth.” -7 Bible Commentary, 910/2:0-1.

Second, it will be a confederacy.

“The professed **Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin, and the church and the world** will be in corrupt harmony.” -7 Bible Commentary, 975/2:2.

Third, in using the state to achieve their objectives, papists and Protestants will unite.

“The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, **and In this work papists and Protestants unite.**” -Great Controversy, 607:1.

### THE TWO UNITING. EMPOWERING DOCTRINES

What will be those doctrines which the churches will unite on? It is more than one; what are they?

It is important we understand this: The basis on which they unite is ALSO the basis of their power. It is two doctrinal beliefs.

“When the leading churches of the United States, **uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them In common**, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitable result.” -Great Controversy, 445:1.

“The wide diversity of belief in the Protestant churches is regarded by many as decisive proof that no effort to secure a forced uniformity can ever be made. But there has been for years, in churches of the Protestant faith, a strong and growing sentiment in favor of **a union based upon common points of doctrine.** To secure such a union, the discussion of subjects upon which all were not agreed-however important they might be from a Bible standpoint-must necessarily be waived.” -Great. Controversy, 444:2.

Do not misunderstand: These churches will suddenly be in command of power that they have never had before! Power with the multitudes and, they will soon learn, power with Congress. It will be power from Satan because of their union on those two special errors.

“Through the two great errors, **the Immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness**, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of Spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome.” -Great Controversy, 588:1.

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The first doctrine: The first unifying error is the belief that men continue to live in spirit form after they die. This error unites the churches to Satan-so he can powerfully work his deceptions and wonders among them so he can powerfully control their minds.

The second doctrine: The second unifying error is the belief that Sunday, the first day of the week, is sacred. This error unites the churches with one another!

The first error unites the churches with Satan; the second unites them with one another. United with Satan, they become energized by him –and he tells them to demand obedience from all men in the nation to unify them in Sunday keeping.

### THIS UNION WILL GREATLY AFFECT PROTESTANTISM

We are told in Great Controversy that both those doctrines originated with Rome. By championing these two dogmas of Rome, Satan will lead Protestantism into subservience to Rome.

In coercing the government to pass this law, Protestantism will essentially have united with the papacy.

“When our nation [the United States] shall so abjure the principles of its government as to enact a Sunday law, **Protestantism will In this act Join hands with popery**; it will be nothing else than **giving life to the tyranny** which has long been eagerly watching its opportunity to spring again into active despotism.” -5 Testimonies, 712:0.

But it is Protestantism, which will change, not Catholicism.

“How the Roman church can clear herself from the charge of idolatry we cannot see. . . And this is the religion which Protestants are beginning to look upon with so much favor, and **which will eventually be united with Protestantism**. This union will not, however, be effected by a change in Catholicism, for Rome never changes. She claims infallibility. It is Protestantism that will change. The adoption of liberal ideas on its part will bring it where it can clasp the hand of Catholicism.”-Review, June 1, 1886.

By entering this union, Protestantism will have emptied itself of God’s power-and given the control into the hands of Satan.

“**What Is It that gives Its kingdom to this power? Protestantism**, a power which, while professing to have the temper and spirit of a lamb and to be allied to Heaven, **speaks with the voice of a dragon. It is moved by a power from beneath.**” - 7 Bible Commentary, 983/2:1.

In voiding God’s law, Protestantism will have joined Catholicism-and the world.

“When the law of God is made void; **when the Christian world Is Joined to the Catholic and the worldly**, in making of none effect the commandments of God, then God’s chosen people arise to defend the law of Jehovah:’-Evangelism, 226:5227:0.

This union will not only bring the world and the churches together, –it will unite them under one head: the pope of Rome.

“As we approach the last crisis it is of vital moment that harmony and unity exist among the Lord’s instrumentalities. The world is filled with storm and war and variance. **Yet under one head –the papal power –the people will unite** to oppose God in the person of His witnesses. This union is cemented by the great apostate.” –7 Testimonies, 182:2.

“Protestants. . . are opening the door for the papacy to regain in Protestant America the supremacy which she has lost In the Old World. “-Great Controversy, 573:1.

“There are many, even of those engaged in this movement for Sunday enforcement, who are blinded to the results which will follow this action. They do not see that they are striking directly against religious liberty. There are many who have never understood the claims of the Bible Sabbath and the false foundation upon which the Sunday institution rests. “-5 Testimonies, 711:4.

It is Catholic principles, which are being urged, and it is subservience to Rome, which results. Because Protestants will lead out in urging this servile legislation, Protestantism will thereby bring itself under Roman dominion.

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“They are working in blindness. They do not see that if a Protestant government sacrifices the principles that have made them a free, independent nation, and through legislation brings into the Constitution, principles that will propagate papal falsehood and papal delusion, they are plunging into the Roman horrors of the Dark Ages.” -Review Extra, December 11, 1888.

“There is a satanic force propelling the Sunday movement, but it is concealed. Even the men who are engaged in the work, are themselves blinded to the results which will follow their movement.” -Review, January 1, 1889.

### THE THREEFOLD UNION WILL COERCE THE GOVERNMENT

This threefold union will work toward one primary objective, and in reaching that objective it will succeed.

The U.S. Government will be pressured into enacting the national Sunday law. Coercion will be applied to force the people to accept a papal teaching.

It will be the combined impact of the threefold union, which will have brought this about.

Passage of that law will lead to very evil results. In reaching across the gulf, the U.S. government will have taken an untraceable step to destroy liberty of conscience. (Later, we will learn that it will be the unleashing of spiritist forces by this enacted law, which will render the situation so unreversible.)

Consider now the unreversible step.

“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.” Great Controversy, 588:1.

“**When Protestant churches shall unite with the secular power to sustain a false religion**, for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution, **then will the papal Sabbath be enforced by the combined authority of church and state**. There will be a national apostasy, which will end only in national ruin.”-Evangelism, 235:1.

### IT WILL BRING THE NATION UNDER SUBSERVIENCE TO PAPAL PRINCIPLES

By enacting this law, all America will be affected. The nation will have accepted the principles of Romanism.

“In the time of testing and trial the shield of Omnipotence will be spread over those whom God has made the depositories of His law. When **legislators** shall abjure the [religious liberty] principles of Protestantism, so as to give countenance and the right hand of fellowship to **Romanism**, then **God will Interpose** in a special manner in behalf of His own honor and the salvation of His people.”-5 Testimonies, 525:1.

Indeed, when that happens –the religion of the papacy will be accepted by the rulers of our nation!

“Laws enforcing the observance of Sunday as the Sabbath **will bring about a national apostasy** from the principles of republicanism upon which the government has been founded. **The religion of the papacy will be accepted** by the rulers, and the law of God will be made void.”-7 Manuscript Release, 192:1 (1906).

“It is at the time of the national apostasy when, acting on the policy of Satan, **the rulers of the land will rank themselves on the side of the man of sin**. It is then the measure of guilt is full. The national apostasy is the signal for national ruin.”-2 Selected Messages, 979:0.

It will place Catholic principles under the care and protection of the state.

“**Roman Catholic principles will be taken under the care and protection of the state**. This national apostasy will speedily be followed by national ruin.” -Review, June 15, 1897.

The result will be a common objective –which will be almost overmastering in its power over the minds of the people.

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“ ‘These have one mind.’ **There will be a universal bond of union**, one great harmony, **a confederacy of Satan’s forces**. ‘**And shall give their power and strength unto the beast.**’ Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism.”-Maranatha, 187:9.

### IT WILL BRING THE NATION UNDER SATAN’S POWER

Protestantism will be the tool of the Vatican to do its work. But the devil will be at the bottom of it all. Satan will be leading in this union, guiding it towards his objectives.

“There is one pointed out in prophecy as the man of sin. He is the representative of Satan. . **Here Is Satan’s right-hand man ready to carry on the work that Satan commenced In heaven**, that of trying to amend the law of God. And the Christian world has sanctioned his efforts by adopting this child of the Papacy –the Sunday institution.” Quoted in Robert W. Olsen’s Crisis Ahead, p.12.

“Not a move has been made in exalting the idol Sabbath, in bringing around Sunday observance through legislation, but **Satan has been behind It**, and has been the chief worker.”-7 Bible Commentary, 910.

“When the legislature frames laws which exalt the first day of the week, and put it in the place of the seventh day, **the device of Satan will be perfected**,”-7 Bible Commentary, 976.

“This false Sabbath is to be enforced by an oppressive law. **Satan and his angels are wide awake and Intensely active**, working with energy and perseverance through human instrumentalities to bring about his purpose of obliteration from the minds of men the knowledge of God.” -7 Bible Commentary, 985.

### IT WILL BRING PERSECUTION TO GOD’S PEOPLE

As a result of this union, the national Sunday law will be enacted, and all the wrath of the infernal one and his agents will be directed against those who obey the commandments of God. The people of the Bible will be hated, and the world will want to blot them from the earth.

We have already mentioned several factors resulting in the passage of the national Sunday law. But there is another reason it will be enacted: Satan will incite the people to hate Sabbath keepers:

### ENACTMENT URGED BECAUSE OF HATRED OF SABBATHKEEPERS

We are specifically told that it will be hatred of Sabbath keepers which will urge the people on to enact that national Sunday law! The same pattern will be seen as occurred in the days of Queen Easter, when Mordecai refused to show reverence to a man.

This hatred will lead the churches to coerce the government to enact the law. Initially, legislators will agree to do so only for political reasons. But that action, once done, will catapult God’s people into the final great conflict.

Here is a longer quotation, yet it is important.

“**The same masterful mind** that plotted against the faithful in ages past **is still seeking to rid the earth of those who fear God and obey His law**. Satan will excite indignation against the humble minority who conscientiously refuse to accept popular customs and traditions, Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile to take counsel against the people of God. Wealth, genius, education, **will combine to cover them with contempt**. Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church members will conspire against them, With voice and pen, by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will seek to overthrow their faith, By false representations and angry appeals they will stir up the passions of the people. Not having a ‘Thus said the Scriptures’ to bring against the advocates of the Bible Sabbath, they will resort to oppressive enactments to supply the lack. **To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law**. Those who fear God cannot accept an institution that violates a precept of the Decalogue. **On this battlefield comes the last great conflict** of the controversy between truth and error, And **we are not left In doubt as to the Issue**. Now, as in the days

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of Mordecai, the Lord will vindicate His truth and His people.”-5 Testimonies, 450:2-451:0.

In passing this law, the nation will become a tool of Satan. In passing this law, it will bring Protestant and Catholic churches under the delusive control of Satan, so he can use them to destroy commandment-keepers.

“This lamb-like power unites with the dragon in making war upon those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. **And Satan unites with Protestants and Papists**, acting in consort with them as the god of this world, dictating to men as if they were the subjects of his kingdom, to be handled and governed and controlled as he pleases. If men will not agree to trample under foot the commandments of God, the spirit of the dragon is revealed. They are imprisoned, brought before the councils, and fined. . Thus Satan usurps the prerogatives of Jehovah. The man of sin sits in the seat of God, proclaiming himself to be God, and acting above God.” – Maranatha, 191:1.

Throughout this entire final conflict, the Sabbath will be the basic issue. In opposition to it, all the wicked world will be united against God’s people.

“In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be united in opposition to God’s people, **all the corrupt powers** that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah. In this warfare **the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will be the great point at Issue**; for in the Sabbath commandment the great Lawgiver identifies Himself as the Creator of the heavens and the earth.” –Maranatha, 187:4.

### INTENSE PERSECUTION WILL RESULT

Are you ready for what is soon to come upon the earth? Are you preparing your heart and life by the study of God’s Word, and obedience to it? Are you standing in defense of God’s Word and God’s law? Are you warning others to prepare for what is ahead?

Here, briefly, is information about what is coming; information you need to know: But, first, let us read two statements. They give a warning and a promise.

“There is a marked contrast between those who bear the seal of God and those who worship the beast and his image. The Lord’s faithful servants **will receive the bitterest persecution** from false teachers. who will not hear the word of God, and who prepare stumbling blocks to put in the way of those who would hear.

“**But God’s people are not to fear. Satan cannot go beyond his limit.** The Lord will be the defense of His people. He regards the injury done to His servants for the truth’s sake as done to Himself. **When the last decision has been made**, when all have taken sides, either for Christ and the commandments or for the great apostate. **God will arise In His power**, and the mouths of those who have blasphemed against Him will be forever stopped. Every opposing power will receive its punishment.” - Maranatha, 191:2.

“God’s Sabbath will be trampled under foot, and a false Sabbath will be exalted. In a Sunday law there is possibility for great suffering to those who observe the seventh day. **The working out of Satan’s plans will bring persecution to the people of God.** But the faithful servants of God need not fear the outcome of the conflict.”-2 Selected Messages, 975:1.

Empowered by Satan, Sunday keepers will be determined to destroy the commandment-keeping people of God.

“The Protestant world today see in the little company keeping the Sabbath a Mordecai in the gate. His character and conduct, **expressing reverence for the law of God**, are a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and are trampling upon His Sabbath; **the unwelcome intruder must by some means be put out of the way.**”-5 Testimonies, 450:1.

“God’s people will feel **the hand of persecution** because “they keep holy the seventh day.”-9 Testimonies, 229:9.

“Let there be a revival of the faith and power of the early church, **and the spirit of persecution** will be revived, and **the fires of persecution will be rekindled.**”-Great Controversy, 48:9.

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My friend, plead with God that you may stand true to Him in the coming crisis. Urge your friends to get ready also! Show this video to fellow church members. Do what you can to arouse and warn others.

“Before the warfare shall be ended and the victory won. . **Persecution will again be kindled** against those who are true to God; their motives will be impugned, their best efforts misinterpreted. their names cast out as evil. . God would have His people prepared for the soon-coming crisis. Prepared or unprepared. we must all meet it.” Life of Paul, 251-252.

“There will come a time when, because of our advocacy of Bible truth, **we shall be treated as traitors.**”-6 Testimonies, 994:2.

“Wealth, genius, education, will combine to cover them with contempt. **Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church members will conspire against them.** With voice and pen, by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will seek to overthrow their faith.”-5 Testimonies, 450:2.

We have had an opportunity to consider the first two final events. The first was the counterfeit revival. We will learn that it will later increase even more in power and extent. We have also observed that that revival will unite and galvanize the Sunday keeping churches to get a national Sunday law enacted.

The next event will be the national Sunday law itself! We have already noted that that will be one of the five landmark events ahead of us, before sin and sinners are no more and eternity begins.

In our next lesson in this series we will see what Inspiration has to say about this subject: The national Sunday law; the importance of this event; who will enact it; what its passage will mean what it will accomplish.

May our heavenly Father help us-each one-to be faithful to the end.

### LAST DAYS APPENDIX

*The following material was gleaned from our book of unpublished manuscripts, entitled **The Last Days, and is some of the best material from that volume on topics given in this section.***

#### UNION

**Then It Will be Time for God to Work.**-"When church and state shall be united in restricting religious liberty, when the institution of the man of sin shall be taken up universally in preference to God's holy sanctified day, when all men. . respect. . the man of sin in exalting the heathen day of worship and call it Christian, then it will be time for God to work, for they have made void His law.

#### **When the Great Secession Has Taken Place, Deluded Men Will Rush Into Superstitious Doctrines.**

- "Then signs of dissolution will be plainly revealed to the God-fearing student of prophecy. The great Secession. . [will have] taken place -the world and [the] church united to tear down God's great moral standard and erect a standard instituted by the man of sin. Then earnest, distinguished men, blinded and deluded with false doctrines, because they have taken a deep draught of [the] wine of Babylon, rush into superstitious doctrines, into the great apostasy, bearing the very stamp of that dress. God has plainly pointed out in prophecy [that] they are drunk with the wine of Babylon, and the same spirit moves the whole."-Undated Manuscript 153, pp. 1-4. (Copenhagen, Denmark, 1886.)

**"America Can Become the Place of Greatest Peril Because of Light Neglected.** - "America, where the greatest light from heaven has been shining upon the people, can become the place of greatest peril and darkness, because the people do not continue to practice the truth and walk in the light."-Letter 23c, 1894, pp. 2-3. (To LH. Evans, July 20, 1894). [See also-3 SM 387.]

#### **Satan Will Excite Apostate Christendom to Crush Liberty of Conscience.-**

"Satan will excite the indignation of apostate Christendom against the humble remnant who conscientiously refuse to accept their customs and traditions. Blinded by the prince of darkness, popular religionists will see only as he sees, and feel as he feels. They will determine as he determines, and oppress as he oppresses. Liberty of conscience, which has cost this nation so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. The church and the world will unite, and the world will lend to the church her power to crush out the right of the people to worship God according to His word. "-Manuscript 51, 1899, pp. 6-12. ("The Seal of God," April 2, 1899). [See also: EV 234-235.]

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### **If Satan Can Induce a Union of the Church and the World, Man-made Commandments Will Supplant the Sabbath.-**

“Men do not seem to understand that they are taken in Satan’s snare when they attempt to tamper with the laws of God. Satan has them in just the position he wants them when they manufacture laws to control the world and place those laws where God’s laws should be. The enemy knows that, if the church can be controlled by political enactments, she will lose her garments of light as did Adam and Eve. If he can lead the church to unite with the world and accept worldly enactments, they virtually acknowledge him as their head. The authority of man-made commandments will work to oppose the rule of the government of heaven. Under the leadership of Satan the knowledge of good and evil will work to dispense with the righteous, holy enactments of God concerning the Sabbath, the observance of which is to be a sign between God and His people forever.”- Manuscript 77, 1899, pp. 12-15. (“God’s Law Immutable,” May 14, 1899).

**Satan’s Throne Is at the Center of Earthly Power.** - “The central power of the earth is a demon. His throne is in the midst of the world, where should have been seen the throne of God. He has been patronized by the church, for the church has been conformed to the world, and is living in transgression of the holy law of God.” - Letter 78, 1900, pp. 3-4. (To “Bro. and Sr. Haysmer,” January 30, 1900).

**The Threefold Union Will Be Satan’s Great Latter-day System of Persecution.** - . ‘Satan will work miracles to deceive those who dwell on the earth. Spiritualism will do its work, by causing the dead to be personated. Those religious bodies that refuse to hear God’s message of warning will be under strong deception, and will unite with the civil power in persecuting the [true] church. The Protestant churches will unite with the papal power in persecuting the commandment-keeping people of God. This union will constitute the great system of persecution that will exercise spiritual tyranny over the consciences of men.’ -Manuscript 16,1899, pp. 1-6, 10-11. “The Word for This Time,” February 20, 1900).

### **God Will Bring Men From Various Churches to Combat the Sunday Law.**

“Satan seems to have been permitted to gain many points of advantage. But the Lord will bring men of understanding from the various churches to combat the enforcement of a law, that the first day of the week shall be honored as a day when no business shall be transacted. “-Letter 168,1909, pp. 2, 5. (“To the Officers of the General Conference, “ December 1, 1909). {See also: Ev 33, 1,,0, 71-72, 377, 388; MM 300, 308-10.}

## 2. THE NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW

The national Sunday law is one of the five landmark events of the last days. They are as follows: (1) The beginning of the investigative judgment in 1844, as Jesus and the Father pass from the first to second apartment of the heavenly Sanctuary to begin the final atonement. (2) The national Sunday law, which marks the setting up of the image to the beast, and the start of several other events which we will soon discuss, which include the marking and sealing, the passing of the investigative judgment to the cases of the living, the blotting out experience, the marriage, the latter rain, and loud cry. (3) The general close of probation, when the four winds are loosed and the plagues begin to fall. (4) The sounding of the Voice of God, which delivers God’s people from the oppressive power of the world. (5) The second advent of Jesus Christ, at which time His faithful ones are taken to heaven, the wicked are slain, and Satan is bound to this planet for a thousand years.

The national Sunday law is especially important, for it jump-starts so many crucial final events.

### **– Part 1–**

#### **THE NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW**

- 1 -

#### **IMPORTANCE OF THIS EVENT**

1 - This is a subject that we need to understand.

“The fearful judgments denounced against the worship of the beast and his image, should lead all to a

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diligent study of the prophecies **to learn what the mark of the beast is, and how they are to avoid receiving It.**" -Great Controversy, 594:2.

2 - The Sunday law is inevitable.

"Sooner or later Sunday laws will be passed." -Last Day Events, 128:4.

### THE OBJECTIVE

1 - A national act.

"Our land is in jeopardy. The time is drawing on when its legislators shall so abjure the principles of Protestantism as to give countenance to Romish apostasy. The people for whom God has so marvelously wrought, strengthening them to throw off the galling yoke of popery, will **by a national act** give vigor to the corrupt faith of Rome, and thus arouse the tyranny which only waits for a touch to start again into cruelty and despotism." -4 Spirit of Prophecy, 410.

2 - A law.

"A more decided effort will be made to exalt the false Sabbath, and to cast contempt upon God Himself by supplanting the day He has blessed and sanctified. This false Sabbath is to be enforced by **an oppressive law.**" -7 Bible Commentary, 985.

3 - A decree.

"**By the decree** enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness." -5 Testimonies, 451.

4 - An amendment to the Constitution.

"We see that efforts are being made to restrict our religious liberties. The Sunday question is now assuming large proportions. **An amendment to our Constitution is being urged** in Congress, and when it is obtained, oppression must follow." - Review Extra, December 18, 1888.

5 - A religious amendment to the Constitution.

"If the people can be led to favor a Sunday law, then the clergy intend to exert their united influence **to obtain a religious amendment to the Constitution**, and compel the nation to keep Sunday." -Review Extra, December 24, 1889.

### IT WILL DESTROY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

1 - It will bring religious liberty to an end.

"**The law of God**, through the agency of Satan, is to be **made void**. In our land of boasted freedom **religious liberty will come to an end**. The contest will be decided over **the Sabbath question**, which will **agitate the whole world.**" Evangelism, 296:9.

2 - It will revive tyranny.

"**Protestants will throw their whole Influence and strength on the side of the Papacy**. By a national act enforcing the false Sabbath they **will give life and vigor to the corrupt faith of Rome**, reviving her tyranny and oppression of conscience." -Maranatha, 179:2.

3 - Men will be compelled to obey.

"A great crisis awaits the people of God. Very soon our nation will attempt **to enforce upon all the observance of the first day of the week as a sacred day**. In doing this they will not scruple to compel men against the voice of their own conscience **to observe the day** the nation declares to be the Sabbath." -Last Day Events, 144.2.

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### SABBATHKEEPERS WILL BE OPPOSED AND HATED

1 - The faithful will fight the battle against great national powers.

“Seventh-day Adventists will fight **the battle over the seventh-day Sabbath**. The authorities in the United States and in other countries will rise up in their pride and power and make laws to restrict religious liberty.” -Last Day Events, 144.3.

2 - They will be hated for their position.

“Soon the Sunday laws will be enforced, and **men In positions of trust will be embittered** against the little handful of God’s commandment-keeping people.”-4 Manuscript Releases, 278.

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### THE TIMING OF THE NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW

It is not possible to set a date for the occurrence of this event, nor to determine time spans leading to or away from it. There will be no tracing of definite time after 1844 (7BC 971) for time-setting is not a test after 1844 (EW 75; 2SM 73; 1T 409). See our tract study, **Its No Time for Time Excitement** [PG-21}, for many quotations on this.

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### LAMBLIKE BEAST INSTITUTES NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW

The Lamblike beast of Revelation 13 represents a persecuting power (TM 117). It symbolizes Protestant America (GC 445), and the United States of America (GC 440-44’1, 445; SR 381-2). This beast will make Sunday observance the test, and, in so doing, will enforce the worship of the papacy (GC 445). The symbol of the lamblike beast “which speaks as a dragon” will not apply to the U.S. until the national Sunday law<sup>9</sup>is enacted.

1 - U.S. enactment of the Sunday law will produce (1) an image to the beast, (2) the worship of the papacy, and (3) begin the placement of the mark.

“The prophecy of Revelation 13 declares that **the power represented by the beast with Iamblike horns** shall cause ‘the earth and them which dwell therein’ **to worship the papacy** –there symbolized by the beast ‘like unto a leopard.’ 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;**’ and, furthermore, it is to command all, ‘both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,’ **to receive ‘the mark of the beast.’** It has been shown that the **United States Is the power** represented by the beast with Iamblike horns, and that this prophecy will be fulfilled **when the United States shall enforce Sunday observance**, which Rome claims as the special acknowledgment of her supremacy. But in this homage to papacy the United States will not be alone. The influence of Rome in the countries that once acknowledged her dominion, is still far from being destroyed. And prophecy foretells a restoration of her power.” -Great Controversy, 578:9579:0.

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### ENACTMENT OF THE NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW BRINGS WORSHIP OF THE LEOPARD BEAST

The Leopard like beast of Revelation 13 represents the papacy (GC 443, 445). This beast is worshiped in the act of violating God’s law by keeping Sunday sacred (TM 133). Efforts to tear down Sabbath observance distinguish the worship of the beast (GC 446). A decree will be made enforcing the worship of the beast (5T 525). Enforcement of Sunday observance will be equivalent to worshipping the beast (GC 448-9). This worship will be enforced on pain of persecution and death (5T 752).

1 - The decree will require the worship of the beast.

“**The decree** shall go forth requiring all to **worship the beast** and his image.” -5 Testimonies, 525:2.

2 - That first beast is the papacy.

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“In (Revelation) chapter 13 (verses 1-10) is described **another beast, ‘like unto a leopard’**, to which the dragon gave ‘his power, and his seat, and great authority.’ This symbol, as most Protestants have believed, represents **the papacy**, which succeeded to the power and seat and authority once held by the ancient Roman empire . . . This prophecy, which is nearly **Identical with the description of the little horn of Daniel 7**, unquestionably points to the papacy.” -Great Controversy, 439:1.

3 - The second beast will cause men to worship the first beast.

“The prophecy of Revelation 13 declares that the power represented by **the beast with Iamblike horns shall cause ‘the earth and them which dwell therein’ to worship the papacy**, there symbolized by the beast ‘like unto a leopard.’ “-Great Controversy, 578:3.

4 - The decree will require that men worship the beast and receive the mark. .

“**The decree** has been passed by the highest earthly **authority that they shall worship the beast and receive his mark** under pain of persecution and death. May God help His people now, for what can they then do in such a fearful conflict without His assistance”“-5 Testimonies, 213:0.

5 - Characteristically, the beast breaks the commandments.

“The **special characteristic** of the beast, and therefore of his image, **is the breaking of God’s commandments**. “-Great Controversy, 446:1.

In contrast to those who worship the beast, there will be those who will not worship the beast, for they will not be hallowing the first-day of the week. They will be keeping God’s commandments.

“John was called to behold **a people distinct from those who worship the beast or his Image by keeping the first day** of the week. The observance of this day is the mark of the beast.”-Testimonies to Ministers, 133:1.

7 - The worship of the beast, mentioned in the third angel’s solemn warning, is the opposite of obedience to God’s commandments.

“After the warning against the worship of the beast and his image, the prophecy declares, ‘Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’ Since **those who keep God’s commandments are thus placed In contrast with those that worship the beast** and his image and receive his mark, it follows that **the keeping of God’s law, on the one hand, and Its violation, on the other, will make the distinction between the worshipers of God and the worshipers of the beast**. “-Great Controversy, 445:9.

8 - It will be the enforcement of the false Sabbath.

“A great crisis awaits the people of God. Very soon our nation will attempt to enforce upon all, **the observance of the first day of the week as a sacred day**. In doing this, they will not scruple to compel men against the voice of their own conscience to **observe the day the nation declares to be the Sabbath**.” -Review Extra, December 11, 1888.

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### SUNDAY LAW DECREE IS THE WORSHIP OF THE BEAST AND HIS IMAGE AND BRINGS THE MARK OF THE BEAST

1 - The decree requires the worship of the beast and the receiving of his mark.

“This small remnant, unable to defend themselves in the deadly conflict with the powers of earth that are marshaled by the dragon host, make God their defense. **The decree has been passed by the highest earthly authority that they shall worship the beast and receive his mark** under pain of persecution and death. “-5 Testimonies, 213:0.

2 - No one receives the mark, until he understands the issues and obeys the Sunday law.

“**With the Issue thus clearly brought before him, whoever shall trample upon God’s law to obey a**

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**human enactment, receives the mark of the beast;** he accepts the sign of allegiance to the power which he chooses to obey instead of God. The warning from heaven is ‘If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation.’ “-Great Controversy, 604:3 - 605:0.

3 - The controversy over this basic issue will divide between those who receive the mark and those who receive the seal.

“While the observance of the **false Sabbath In compliance with the law of the state**, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, **the keeping of the true Sabbath, In obedience to God’s law**, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, **receive the mark** of the beast, the other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God.” -Great Controversy, 605:2.

4 - Some will refuse to obey the decree to worship the beast and his image.

“If we are true servants of God, there should be no question in our minds as to whether we will obey His commandments or consult our own temporal interests. If the believers in the truth are not sustained by their faith in these comparatively peaceful days. what will uphold them **when the grand test comes and the decree goes forth against all those who will not worship the Image of the beast and receive his mark** in their foreheads or in their hands? This solemn period is not far off. Instead of becoming weak and irresolute, the people of God should be gathering strength and courage for the time of trouble.”-4 Testimonies, 251:1.

5 - The faithful can –even now-say no to the decree.

“**Those who would not receive the mark of the beast and his Image** when the decree goes I forth, must have decision now to say, Nay, we will I not regard the institution of the beast.” -Early Writings, 67:2.

### WHY WE MUST EVER CALL OURSELVES “SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS”

We have been told that, because Sunday keeping will be the test, the faithful must ever retain the name “Seventh-day Adventist” We are told that the reasons why we must ever retain the name include this one:

“.. The conflict is between the requirements of God and the requirements of the beast. The first day, a papal institution which directly contradicts the fourth commandment, is yet to be made a test by the two-horned beast. And then the fearful warning from God declares the penalty of bowing to the beast and his image. They shall drink the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation.”1 Testimonies, 223:2.

While we are on this subject, we should consider a related question: What will the organized leadership of our church will do when the national Sunday law is enacted, and it is no longer legal for the Adventist denomination to exist - if, that is, its organizational structure and leadership continues to worship on the Bible Sabbath?

One possibility is that a controlling number of our leaders will stand true to our historic principles. Another possibility is that they will go into apostasy, leave the church and join the opposition. A third possibility is that they will they continue on as organizational leaders of the denomination-even though they have forsaken the Sabbath and are worshiping on Sunday.

One of those three possibilities will occur.

Yet we just read the statement, which urges the faithful to ever retain the name, “Seventh-day Adventist.” Surely, our heavenly Father will enable the faithful to give a clear-cut message to the world. Why would we be urged to retain the name otherwise? It seems that God will protect that name - and only true Seventh-day Adventists will bear it after the national Sunday law crisis begins. If that be true, then the apostates will totally forsake Adventism, repudiate identification with the “Seventh-day Adventist” name, and join the ranks of the enemy.

(In a later study in this series, we will discuss whether there will be a Seventh-day Adventist organization after the Sunday law is enacted.)

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### THE NO-BUY-SELL PROVISIO

What about the No-buy-sell penalty? Is it the same as the national Sunday law, or is it issued later as a separate decree or law? We are not told much about it, and it could be a follow-up piece of legislation to render even more stringent the provisions and penalties of the national Sunday law (cf. DA 121-122).

(1) The present writer knows of no conclusive instance in which the no-buy-sell stipulation is referred to as a separate piece of legislation (but see 5T 152, quoted below).

(2) The penalties in the original national Sunday law are so strong that all but the totally principled -in spite of learning the momentous issues involved -will yield, keep Sunday, and receive the mark.

(3) We are told that the “threat of imprisonment and death” will be included in the Sunday law itself, - and that would be far stronger than the no- buy-sell stipulation.

(4) Thus-whether or not the no-buy-sell proviso is a separate act -does not seem to be significant.

1 - Assets will then be worthless.

**“Hoarded wealth will soon be worthless.** When the decree shall go forth that **none shall buy or sell except they have the mark of the beast**, very much means will be of no avail. God calls for us now to do all in our power to send forth the warning to the world.” -*Last Day Events*, 148:2.

2 - The no-buy-sell restriction will apply to commandment-keepers.

“The work must not stop for want of means. More means must be invested in it. Brethren in America, in the name of my Master I bid you wake up! You that are placing your talents of means in a napkin, and hiding them in the earth, who are building houses and adding land to land, God calls upon you, ‘Sell that ye have, and give alms.’ **There Is a time coming when commandment keepers can neither buy nor sell.** Make haste to dig out your buried talents. If God has entrusted you with money, show yourselves faithful to your trust; unwrap you napkin, and send you talents to the exchangers, that when Christ shall come, He may receive His own with interest.” - *Counsels on Stewardship*, 40:1,

3 - The faithful will be penalized for refusing to break God’s law.

“When we learn the power of His word, we shall not follow the suggestions of Satan in order to obtain food or to save our lives. Our only questions will be, What is God’s command? and what His promise? Knowing these, we shall obey the one, and trust the other.

“In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off. **Because they refuse to break His law In obedience to earthly powers, they will be forbidden to buy or sell.** It will finally be decreed that they shall be put to death. See Revelation 13:11-17. But to the obedient is given the promise, ‘He shall dwell on high: his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.’ Isaiah 33:16, By this promise the children of God will live. When the earth shall be wasted with famine, they shall be fed. ‘They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.’ Psalm 37:19.” *Desire of Ages*, 121:2-122:0.

4 - Only those with the mark will be permitted to buy and sell.

“It is now that our brethren should be cutting down their possessions instead of increasing them. We are about to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Then let us not be dwellers upon the earth, but be getting things into as compact a compass as possible.

**“The time Is coming when we cannot sell at any price. The decree will soon go forth prohibiting men to buy or sell of any man save him that hath the mark** of the beast. We came near having this realized in California a short time since; but this was only the threatening of the blowing of the four winds. As yet they are held by the four angels. We are not just ready. There is a work yet to be done, and then the angels will be bidden to go, that the four winds may blow upon the earth. That will be a decisive time for God’s children, a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation. Now is our opportunity to work,” -5 *Testimonies*, 152:3-2.

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“Satan says. . . **‘For fear of wanting food** and clothing they will join with the world in transgressing God’s law. **The earth will be wholly under my dominion.**’ “-*Prophet and Kings*, 183:3, 184.:2.

5 - In addition to no-buy-sell, there will be the threat of punishment and death.

“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.”-5 Testimonies, 81:1.

“Wonderful events are soon to open before the world. The end of all things is at hand. The time of trouble is about to come upon the people of God. Then it is **that the decree will go forth forbidding those who keep the Sabbath of the Lord to buy or sell, and threatening them with punishment, and even death,** if they do not observe the first day of the week as the Sabbath.” Lift Him Up, 947:9.

“As Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon issued a decree that all who would not bow down and worship this image should be killed, so **a proclamation will be made that all who will not reverence the Sunday Institution will be punished with Imprisonment and death.** . Let all read carefully the thirteenth chapter of Revelation, for it concerns every human agent, great and small.”-14 Manuscript Releases, 91 (1896).

“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.”-5 Testimonies, 81:1.

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### THE SUNDAY LAW IS THE SIGN TO LEAVE THE LARGE CITIES PREPARATORY TO LEAVING THE SMALL ONES

1 - Move out of the cities-before you can no longer do so.

“The trades unions and confederacies of the world are a snare. Keep out of them, and away from them, brethren. Have nothing to do with them. Because of these unions and confederacies, it will soon be very difficult for our institutions to carry on their work in the cities. My warning is: **Keep out of the cities.** Build no sanitariums in the cities. Educate our people to **get out of the cities into the country,** where they can obtain a small piece of land, and make a home for themselves and their children. .

“Our restaurants must be in the cities; for otherwise the workers in these restaurants could not reach the people and teach them the principles of right living. And for the present we shall have to occupy meetinghouses in the cities. But **erelong there will be such strife and confusion In the cities, that those who wish to leave them will not be able. We must be preparing for these Issues.** “-2 Selected Messages, 142:3-4.

“He wants us to live where we can have elbow room. His people are not to crowd into the cities. He wants them to take their families out of the cities, that they may better prepare for eternal life. In a little while they will have to leave the cities . . . **Get out of the cities as soon as possible.** “2 Selected Message, 356:3, 5.

2 - The Sunday law decree will be a special sign to leave the large cities.

“It is no time now for God’s people to be fixing their affections or laying up their treasure in the world. The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, **so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal Sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones** for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains.”-5 Testimonies, 464:3-465:0 (Country Living, 32).

3 - In view of that, we are now to have no centers in any city.

“For years I have been given special light that **we are not to center our work in the cities.** The turmoil

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and confusion that fill these cities, the conditions brought about by the labor unions and the strikes, would prove a great hindrance to our work. Men are seeking to bring those engaged in the different trades under bondage to certain unions. This is not God's planning, but the planning of a power that we should in no wise acknowledge. God's word is fulfilling; the wicked are binding themselves up in bundles ready to be burned." -7 Testimonies, 84:2.

4 - Live where you can keep the Sabbath unhindered.

"We are not to locate ourselves where we will be forced into close relations with those who do not honor God . . . **A crisis is soon to come In regard to the observance of Sunday.** . . .

"The Sunday party is strengthening itself in its false claims, and this will mean oppression to those who determine to keep the Sabbath of the Lord. We are to place ourselves where we can carry out the Sabbath commandment in its fullness. 'Six days shall thou labor,' the Lord declares, 'and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shall not do any work.' And we **are to be careful not to place ourselves where it will be hard for ourselves and our children to keep the Sabbath.** "If in the providence of God we can **secure places away from the cities**, the Lord would have us do this. There are troublous times before us . . . I see the necessity of making haste to get all things ready for the crisis." -2 Selected Messages, 359:2-5

5 - God will help you find a secluded place.

"I was pleading with some families to **avail themselves of God's appointed means, and get away from the cities to save their children.** Some were loitering, making no determined efforts.

"The angels of mercy hurried Lot and his wife and daughters by taking hold of their hands. Had Lot hastened as the Lord desired him to, his wife would not have become a pillar of salt. Lot had too much of a lingering spirit. Let us not be like him. **The same voice that warned Lot to leave Sodom bids us, 'Come out from among them, and be ye separate, . . . and touch not the unclean.'** Those who obey this warning will find a refuge. Let every man be wide awake for himself, and try to save his family. Let him gird himself for the work. God will reveal from point to point what to do next."-Country Living, 6:6-7:0.

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### THE TRADES, PROFESSIONS, AND OTHER UNIONS WILL PLAY A PART IN THIS FINAL CONFLICT

1 - Beware of organizations opposed to the law of God.

"**Men have confederated to oppose the Lord of hosts.** These confederacies will continue until Christ shall leave His place of intercession before the mercy seat and shall put on the garments of vengeance. **Satanic agencies are in every city, busily organizing into parties those opposed to the law of God.** Professed saints and avowed unbelievers take their stand with these parties. This is no time for the people of God to be weaklings. We cannot afford to be off our guard for one moment. "-8 Testimonies, 42:2.

"**The trades unions will be one of the agencies** that will bring upon this earth a time of trouble such as has not been since the world began."-2 Selected Messages, 142:1.

"**Because of these unions and confederacies,** it will soon be very difficult for our institutions to carry on their work in the cities. My warning is: Keep out of the cities. Build no sanitariums in the cities." -2 Selected Messages, 142:3.

2 - Men are binding into bundles of disobedient ones.

"These unions are one of the signs of the last days. **Men are binding up in bundles ready to be burned.** They may be church members, but **while they belong to these unions, they cannot possibly keep the commandments** of God; for to belong to these unions means to disregard the entire Decalogue." -2 Selected Messages, 143:3.

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### WE ARE TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM

1 - We must not unite with them.

“Those who claim to be the children of God are **in no case to bind up with the labor unions that are formed or that shall be formed.** This the Lord forbids. Cannot those who study the prophecies see and understand what is before us?” -2 Selected Messages, 144:1.

2 - We are to stand free in God.

“We are now to use all our entrusted capabilities in giving the last warning message to the world. In this work **we are to preserve our Individuality. We are not to unite with secret societies or with trade-unions. We are to stand free In God,** looking constantly to Christ for instruction. All our movements are to be made with a realization of the importance of the work to be accomplished for God.” -7 Testimonies, 84:3.

3- Membership in the unions will wrap you in the fold of the enemy.

“The work of the people of God is to prepare for the events of the future, which will soon come upon them with blinding force. In the world gigantic monopolies will be formed. **Men will bind themselves together in unions that will wrap them in the folds of the enemy.** A few men will combine to grasp all the means to be obtained in certain lines of business. Trade unions will be formed, and **those who refuse to join these unions will be marked men.**” -2 Selected Messages, 142:2.

### LABOR UNIONS WILL BECOME OPPRESSIVE AGENCIES OF SATAN

1 - The power of labor unions will be oppressive. “The time is fast coming when the **controlling power of the labor unions will be very oppressive.** Again and again the lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one. We should now begin to heed the instruction given us over and over again: Get out of the cities into rural districts, where the houses are not crowded closely together, and where you will be free from the interference of enemies.” -2 Selected Messages, 141:1.

2 - Trades unions will help bring the time of trouble.

“The **trades unions** will be one of the agencies that **will bring upon this earth a time of trouble** such as has not been since the world began.” -2 Selected Messages, 142:1.

3 - They will bring most terrible violence.

“There is a great work before us. The enemy has succeeded in occupying the minds of those who believe the truth for this time, and hindrance after hindrance has been placed in the way of the advancement of God’s work. . It will be more difficult in the future than it is today. Satanic agencies are becoming more determined in their rebellion against God. **The trade unions will be the cause of the most terrible violence that has ever been seen among human beings.**” Letter 99, 1904, p. 3. (To J. E. White and wife, February 23, 1904.) - 4 Manuscript Releases, 23:3.

4 - These are agencies which God will not much longer tolerate.

“Cast out of heaven, Satan set up his kingdom in this world, and ever since he has been untiringly striving to seduce human beings from their allegiance to God. He uses the same power that he used in heaven –the influence of mind on mind. Men become tempters of their fellowmen. The strong, corrupting sentiments of Satan are cherished, and they exert a masterly, compelling power. **Under the Influence of these sentiments, men bind up with one another In confederacies, In trade unions, and In secret societies.** There are at work in the world **agencies that God will not much longer tolerate.**” -1 Mind, Character, and Personality, 28:3.

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### THE UNIVERSAL SUNDAY LAW

Under the influence of the United States of America, the apostasy will spread throughout the world as

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other nations enact their own national Sunday laws. The result will be a world-wide, or universal, Sunday law. The pattern shown in the quotations is this:

(1) The National Sunday Law is first enacted in the United States.

(2) The other nations of the “Christian” world (Europe, Canada, Australia, Central and South America, and the Philippines) more rapidly follow.

(3) All nations will be cajoled or coerced into passing and enforcing similar enactments.

In an earlier section on the False Latter Rain, we noted three things that will greatly impact both on the nations of Christendom and non-Christian nations:

(1) The marvelous working of Satan through miracles and healings by his agents;

(2) his appearances as Christ in various parts of the world;

(3) the appearance of foreign deities (such as Mohammed and Buddha). All of these will be used to turn the people to Sunday keeping, as the answer to the world’s problems.

But it will all lead to worship of the antichrist by the world. And Satan will be behind it all.

“In this **age antlchrst will appear as the true Christ, and then the law of God will be fully made void In the nations** of our world. Rebellion against God’s holy law will be fully ripe. But the true leader of all this rebellion is Satan **clothed as an angel of light. Men will be deceived and will exalt him to the place of God**, and deify him. But Omnipotence will interpose, and to the apostate churches that unite in the exaltation of Satan, the sentence will go forth, ‘Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.’-Testimonies to Ministers, 62:1.

### PROTESTANT, THEN CATHOLIC NATIONS

1 - Rome is influential in many countries.

“In homage to the Papacy the United States will not be alone. **The Influence of Rome In the countries that once acknowledge her dominion, Is still far from being destroyed.**” Maranatha, 188:1.

2 - Romanism in Europe and Protestantism in North America will enact the law.

“In the last conflict the Sabbath will be the special point of controversy throughout all Christendom. Secular rulers and religious leaders will unite to enforce the observance of the Sunday; and as milder measures fail, the most oppressive laws will be enacted. It will be urged that the few who stand in opposition to an institution of the church and a law of the land ought not to be tolerated; and a decree will finally be issued denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment, and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death. Romanism In the Old World, and apostate Protestantism In the New, will pursue a similar course toward those who honor the divine precepts.” -4 Spirit of Prophecy, 444:2- 445:0 [1884 Great Controversy.

“**Romanism In the Old World, and apostate Protestantism In the New**, will pursue a similar course toward those who honor all the divine precepts.”-Great Controversy, 616:0 (1911).

Note: According to above four statements, it appears that, while Protestantism will lead in causing enactment of the National Sunday law in Protestant America, Roman Catholicism will lead in coercing the Catholic nations of Europe to follow suit.

### ALL NATIONS OF CHRISTENDOM WILL ADOPT IT

1 - The whole Christian world will be involved. “In the great conflict between faith and unbelief the **whole Christian world will be involved.**” Last Day Events, 137:1.

2 - All Christendom will enact it, and the attention of the entire world will be upon it.

“The warning of the third angel. . . is represented in the prophecy as being proclaimed with a loud voice,

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by an angel flying in the midst of heaven; and it will command the attention of the world.

“In the issue of the contest all Christendom will be divided into two great classes - those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark. Although church and state will unite their power to compel ‘all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond’ (Revelation 13:16), to receive ‘the mark of the beast,’ yet the people of God will not receive it” Great Controversy, 450:0-1.

3 - The Protestant world will adopt it, and the nations will be stirred.

“**Nations** will be stirred to their very center. Support will be withdrawn from those who proclaim God’s only standard of righteousness, the only sure test of character. And all who will not bow to the decree of the national councils and obey the national laws to exalt the Sabbath instituted by the man of sin, to the disregard of God’s holy day, will feel, not the oppressive power of popery alone, but of the **Protestant world**, the image of the beast” -2 Selected Messages, 380:1.

### THEN TO THE NON-CHRISTIAN NATIONS

First, the Christian world; and then every nation will become involved - and worship the beast and his image.

“The **so-called Christian world** is to be the theater of great decisive actions. Men in authority will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the example of the Papacy. Babylon will make **all nations** drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. **Every nation** will be involved [Rev 18:3-7 quoted].”- Maranatha, 188:3.

### EVERY NATION ON EARTH WILL REQUIRE IT

1 - It will go to all the world.

“The decree enforcing the worship of this day **is to go forth to all the world**. “-7 Bible Commentary, 976/2:3.

2 - All the world will act a part.

“The Sabbath question is to be the issue in the great final conflict in which **all the world** will act a part,”- 6 Testimonies, 352:1.

3 - Foreign nations will accept it.

“**Foreign nations** will follow the example of the United States, Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon our people in all parts of the world.”- 6 Testimonies, 395:1.

4 - The powers of earth will decree it. “Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. **The powers of earth**, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that all, ‘both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,’ shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false Sabbath.”- Great Controversy, 604:2.

5 - Every nation will join the universal bond of union.

“The so-called Christian world is to be the theater of great and decisive actions. Men in authority will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the example of the papacy. Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Every nation will be involved. Of this time John the Revelator declares: . . . [Revelation 18:3-7; 17:13-14, quoted]. ‘These have one mind.’ There **will be a universal bond of union**, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan’s forces. ‘And shall give their power and strength unto the beast.’ Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty-freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience -as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanists.”-3 Selected Messages, 392:1, 3-4.

6 - All nations, tongues, and peoples will be commanded to practice it.

“History will be repeated. False religion will be exalted. The first day of the week, a common working

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day, possessing no sanctity whatever, will be set up as was the image at Babylon, **All nations and tongues and peoples** will be commanded to worship this spurious Sabbath. This is Satan's plan to make of no account the day instituted by God, and given to the world as a memorial of Creation. . The decree enforcing the worship of this day is to go forth to all the world." - Maranatha, 214:1 / 7 Bible Commentary, 976/2:3.

7 - Every country on the globe will follow America's example.

"As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false Sabbath, **the people of every country on the globe** will be led to follow her example."- 6 Testimonies, 18:2.

8 - The substitution will become universal.

"The substitution of the false for the true is the last act in the drama. **When this substitution becomes universal** God will reveal Himself, When the laws of men are exalted above the laws of God, when the powers of this earth try to force men to keep the first day of the week, know that **the time has come for God to work.**" -7 Bible Commentary, 980/2:4.

"The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. **When this substitution becomes universal** God will reveal Himself. **He will arise** in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. " 7 Testimonies, 141:1.

9 - All will take sides; no one will remain neutral.

"In the great conflict between faith and unbelief the whole Christian world will be involved. **All will take sides.** Some apparently may not engage in the conflict on either side. They may not appear to take sides against the truth, but they will not come out boldly for Christ through fear of losing property or suffering reproach. All such are numbered with the enemies of Christ." -Last Day Events, 215:2.

### THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL BE OPPOSED TO THE FAITHFUL WHO WILL REMAIN FAITHFUL TO GOD

1 - The small group loyal to God will be the subject of universal execration.

"As the Sabbath has become the special point of controversy throughout Christendom and religious and secular authorities have combined to enforce the observance of the Sunday, the persistent refusal of a small minority to yield to the popular demand will make them objects of **universal execration.**" -Great Controversy, 615:2.

2 - Amid all that happens, the faithful will stand true.

"The season of distress before God's people will call for a faith that will not falter. His children must make it manifest that He is the only object of their worship, and that no consideration, **not even that of life itself, can induce them to make the least concession to false worship.** To the loyal heart the commands of sinful, finite men will sink into insignificance beside the word of the eternal God. Truth will be obeyed though the result be imprisonment or exile or death."-Prophets and Kings, 512:2-513:0.

3 - All the corrupt powers of earth will be in opposition to God's people.

"In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be united, **In opposition to God's people, all the corrupt powers** that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah. In this warfare **the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will be the great point at issue**, for in the Sabbath commandment the great Lawgiver identifies Himself as the Creator of the heavens and the earth."-3 Selected Messages, 392:5-393:0.

4 - The whole wicked world will be converted, keep Sunday, and oppose God's faithful ones.

"The wicked. . declared that they had the truth, that miracles were among them, that angels from heaven talked with them and walked with them, **that great power and signs and wonders** were performed among them, and that this was the temporal millennium that they had been expecting so long. The whole world was converted and in harmony with the Sunday law." -3 Selected Messages, 427:5, 428:1.

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“**The whole world** is to be stirred with enmity against Seventh-day Adventists because they will not yield homage to the papacy by honoring Sunday, the institution of this antichristian power.” Testimonies to Ministers, 37:0.

“Those who trample upon God’s law make human laws which they will force the people to accept. Men will devise and counsel and plan what they will do. **The whole world keeps Sunday**, they say, and why should not this people, who are so few in number, do according to the laws of the land?” -Last Day Events, 136:3.

Note: We will learn in the chapter on the **False Latter Rain that Satan will personally appear (as Christ) to induce other nations to enact the national Sunday laws**. We will there learn that he will also use apparent reincarnations of heathen gods to aid in deceiving them.

### UNIVERSAL SUNDAY LAW COMES BEFORE GENERAL CLOSE OF PROBATION

The enactment of a national Sunday law by the United States will hurl the people of our land into the events of the Final Crisis. But when similar legislation spreads to every other nation—thus becoming a universal Sunday law—mankind will be on the edge of the general close of probation. Enactment of that law in a nation brings the mark-seal-loud cry cluster of events. But when the very last nation has adopted it, nearly all the other nations will have made their decision. Thus, probation for humanity will close soon after the law becomes worldwide.

“God gives nations a certain time of probation.” -4 Bible Commentary, 1143.

“With unerring accuracy the Infinite One still **keeps an account with all nations**. While His mercy is tendered, with calls to repentance, this account will remain open; **but when the figures reach a certain amount**, which God has fixed, the ministry of His wrath commences. The account is closed. Divine patience ceases. There is no more pleading of mercy in their behalf.”-5 Testimonies, 208.

“God keeps a record with the nations: the figures are swelling against them in the books of heaven; and when it shall have become a law that the transgression of the first day of the week shall be met with punishment, then their cup will be full.”- 7 Bible Commentary, 910.

“When the accumulated figures in heaven’s record books shall mark the sum of transgression complete, wrath will come, unmixed with mercy, and then it will be seen what a tremendous thing it is to have worn out the divine patience. **This crisis will be reached when the nations shall unite in making void God’s law.**” -5 Testimonies, 524.

“This earth has almost reached the place where God will permit the destroyer to work his will upon it. The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. **When this substitution becomes universal**, God will reveal Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terrible the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain.”- 7 Testimonies, 141.

“The substitution of the false for the true is the last act in the drama. **When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. When the laws of men are exalted above the laws of God**, when the powers of this earth try to force men to keep the first day of the week, know that the time has come for God to work. He will arise in His majesty, and will shake terrible the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity.” -7 Bible Commentary, 980.

- Part 2 -

### THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST

In Revelation 13, we are told about the first (leopardlike) beast, which is Rome. Then we are shown a second (lamblike) beast, which is the United States of America. This second beast makes an image of (also to) the first beast. The setting up of that image constitutes a church-state union mirroring the earlier 1260-year

































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































