

The *Loud*
CRY

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CONTENTS



CHAPTER 1 PROPHETIC PRELUDE: PART ONE	1
CHAPTER 2 PROPHETIC PRELUDE Part 2: THE PURPOSES & ROLE OF THE PAPACY	10
CHAPTER 3 The Final Swelling of the Third Angel Before the Loud Cry	17
CHAPTER 4 The Image and Mark of the Beast	28
CHAPTER 5 The Loud Cry Begins	42
CHAPTER 6 The Fundamental Principles of Religious Liberty	54
CHAPTER 7 The Loud Cry Develops	64
CHAPTER 8 The Final Shaking	75
CHAPTER 9 The Seal of the Living God	84
CHAPTER 10 The Investigative Judgment of the Living	95
CHAPTER 11 The Close of Human Probation	105

REFERENCE ABBREVIATIONS

AA — Acts of the Apostles

#BC — (Volume) Bible Commentary

BE — The Bible Echo

CD — Counsels on Diet and Food

CH — Counsels on Health

COL — Christ's Object Lessons

CT — Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students

DA — Desire of Ages

ED — Education

EW — Early Writings

GC — Great Controversy

GW — Gospel Workers

HL — Healthful Living

HP — Heavenly Places

MB — Mount of Blessings

MH — The Ministry of Healing#

MM — Medical Ministry

NASB — New American Standard Bible

OHC — Our High Calling

PK — Prophets and Kings

PP — Patriarchs and Prophets

RH — Review and Herald

SC — Steps to Christ

SD — Sons and Daughters

#SG — (Volume) Spiritual Gifts

#SM — (Volume) Selected Messages

SR — The Story of Redemption

ST — The Signs of the Times

#T — (Volume) Testimonies

TM — Testimonies to Ministers

WM — Welfare Ministry

YI — Youth Instructor



CHAPTER 1



PROPHETIC PRELUDE: PART ONE

We begin by reading **Revelation Chapter 1** verses 1 to 3 and immediately we understand that the book of Revelation was written *to reveal* or *to show* us the “*things which must shortly come to pass*”. This can only mean that the **Revelation** is an **open Book!** Moreover when we read John 14: 6,7 ; Colossians 2: 2,3 ; 2 Corinthians 4:6, we also understand that all Revelation comes through Christ and is centered in Him.

“In the Revelation are portrayed the deep things of God. The very name given to its inspired pages, “the Revelation,” contradicts the statement that this is a sealed book. A revelation is something revealed. The Lord Himself revealed to His servant the mysteries contained in this book, and He designs that they shall be open to the study of all. Its truths are addressed to those living in the last days of this earth's history, as well as to those living in the days of John. Some of the scenes depicted in this prophecy are in the past, some are now taking place; some bring to view the close of the great conflict between the powers of darkness and the Prince of heaven, and some reveal the triumphs and joys of the redeemed in the earth made new. “AA 584.1

We can now go a little deeper by studying Daniel chapter 12. In Daniel 12:9 we read that Daniel's prophecy was to be "***closed up and sealed till the time of the end***" (KJV). By comparing verses 6,7,8 with verse 9 in Daniel 12, we can prove that "***the time of the end***" commenced at the **end** of the **1260 year** Papal world supremacy of 538 to 1798. (Compare with Revelation 12: 6 and 14).

Amazingly, in Revelation 10 we read of a mighty Messenger Who came down from heaven with "a little book open" in His hand! This little book is a clear and obvious reference to the book of Daniel!

"In the Revelation all books of the Bible meet and end. Here is the complement of the book of Daniel. One is a prophecy; the other a revelation. The book that was sealed is not the Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel relating to the last days. The angel commanded, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end." Daniel 12:4. AA 585.1

Our inescapable conclusions are : 1. That the prophecies of Daniel would be studied and understood progressively after 1798, and 2. That the book of Revelation explains and opens up the prophecies of Daniel especially those portions of Daniel which are dealing with the very last events in the end-time.

This means that the details of the ***final*** verses in Daniel 2, 7, 8 and 11 must be ***understood*** through what the Book of **Revelation** teaches about those final events !

This brings us to a third inescapable conclusion: the final verses of Daniel chapters 2, 7, 8, and especially 11 must be interpreted by and understood through Revelation 12: 13 to 17; Revelation 13 : 11 to 18 and Revelation 14: 6 to 12 to 20!

However complicated the symbolism and language of the final verses of Daniel's prophecies, they are explained by those portions of **Revelation** dealing with the final events of the **image and Mark of the Beast**.

Therefore any interpretation of the final verses of Daniel 11 must be in harmony with Revelation 13: 11 to 18.

As an example let us look at Daniel 2: the *iron mixed with miry clay* in Daniel 2 refers to the *mingling* of *church-craft* and *statecraft* after the collapse of Pagan Rome straight through to the end of time. And what will be the final *church-state mingling* in the very end of history, it will be the fulfillment of Revelation 13 : 11 to 18 which will be the USA False -Protestant church-state union which will usher in the final persecution of God's people and the USA False Protestant world leadership and world dominion that will usher in the final battle of the great Controversy between Christ and Satan!

So we see Daniel chapter 2 starting with Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon and ending with the mixing of iron with miry clay = mingling of church craft and state craft, before the Stone strikes the image = Second Coming of Christ and the setting up of God's Kingdom of Glory. According to the laws of prophetic parallelism, Daniel's prophecies start with ancient Babylon and end with the Babylon of false-Christianity; and, according to **Revelation 13: 11 to 18**, the end-time false-Christianity which will usher in the final persecution will be the twofold fallen Babylon of False *Protestantism*!

PROTESTANT BABYLON'S TWO FALLS.

In Revelation 14 : 6 to 12 there is the prophecy of the *Three Angels' Messages*. These messages started to be proclaimed in 1831 (33 years after 1798). William Miller was the primary messenger. The Protestant churches of the USA rejected the First Angel's Message and in the summer of 1844 the second Angel's message, of Rev. 14:8, was given, proclaiming that Babylon (the USA Protestant churches) had fallen. That fall was a moral fall and was Protestant Babylon's **first fall**.

"Babylon is said to be "the mother of harlots." By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14 announcing the fall of Babylon, must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the warning of the Judgment, it must be given in the last days, **therefore it cannot refer to the Romish Church, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation, in a message which is yet future, the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon. According to this scripture, many of God's people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith. At the time of their rise, these churches took a noble stand for God and the truth, and his blessing was with them. Even the unbelieving world was constrained to acknowledge the beneficent results that followed an acceptance of the principles of the gospel. In the words of the prophet to Israel, "Thy renown went forth**

among the heathen for thy beauty; for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord God.” But they fell by the same desire which was the curse and ruin of Israel,—the desire of imitating the practices and courting the friendship of the ungodly. “Thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown.” GC(88) 382.3 (1888 Edition).

Remember that by the time period of 1798 to 1831 the wonderful principles of civil and religious liberties were enshrined in the USA Constitution, making it the most wonderful and perfect Constitution for human rights and liberty of conscience in the history of the world ! Revelation 13: 11 (first part) is a prophecy which was fulfilled by the rise of USA and the development of the lamb-like principles of Protestantism and Republicanism which include,of necessity, the separation of church and state and liberty of conscience in matters of faith and worship.

But the prophecy foretells of a drastic and radical departure from those lamb-like principles and the manifestation of *the dragon principles of persecution through church-state union and the control of the civil government by the Protestant churches which will be the healing of the “deadly wound” of Revelation 13:3.*

THE “DEADLY WOUND”

The process of achieving the “deadly wound”, that is, of ending the control of the civil government by the Papacy, was slowly begun and developed by the progressive development and growth of the Protestant Reformation which gave the people the Biblical truth of liberty of conscience in matters of faith, so much so, that

persecution had almost completely ceased by 1773. In 1793 to 1796, France, which had slavishly yielded to the Papacy to crush the Reformation (over a period about 250 years), revolted against all religion, waged war on the Bible and slaughtered the Roman clergy. But the madness was called off in 1796 and the word and worship of God restored in France. The capture of Pope Pius in 1798, by Napoleon's general Berthier, simply indicated to the world that the era of Papal CHURCH-STATE dominance had come to an end. The "deadly wound" to church-state union was complete. The deadly wound of the separation of Church and State will be healed when USA false Protestantism abandons the principles of Protestantism and induces the USA civil government to abandon the principles of Republicanism in the formation of church-state union, the image of the beast, and the enforcement of Sunday worship, the Mark of the beast. It is then that Protestantism will undergo her **2nd** and **final fall** as announced by Revelation 18: 1 to 4.

"This scripture points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Revelation 14 (verse 8), is to be repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given, in the summer of 1844. A terrible condition of the religious world is here described. With every rejection of truth the minds of the people will become darker, their hearts more stubborn, until they are entrenched in an infidel hardihood. In defiance of the warnings which God has given, they will continue to trample upon one of the precepts of the Decalogue, until they are led to persecute those who hold it sacred. Christ is set at nought

in the contempt placed upon His word and His people. As the teachings of spiritualism are accepted by the churches, the restraint imposed upon the carnal heart is removed, and the profession of religion will become a cloak to conceal the basest iniquity. A belief in spiritual manifestations opens the door to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and thus the influence of evil angels will be felt in the churches." GC 603.2

All this means that the *final* world-controlling *Babylon* will be False Protestantism united to the civil government of the mightiest nation on earth, the USA, *leading* and *uniting* the world in the final persecution of God's true remnant church.

Revelation 13: 11 to 17 informs us that the beast from the earth in her dragon phase will be the last power employed by the dragon to persecute God' church, Revelation 12:17.

"I saw that the two-horned beast had a dragon's mouth, and that his power was in his head, and that the decree would go out of his mouth. Then I saw the Mother of Harlots; that the mother was not the daughters, but separate and distinct from them. She has had her day, and it is past, and her daughters, the Protestant sects, were the next to come on the stage and act out the same mind that the mother had when she persecuted the saints. I saw that as the mother has been declining in power, the daughters had been growing, and soon they will exercise the power once exercised by the mother." SpM 1.4

"In vision John beheld the trials which God's people would endure for the truth's sake. He saw their unyielding firmness in obeying the commandments of God, in the face of the oppressive powers that sought to force them into disobedience, and he saw their final triumph over the beast and his image.

Under the symbols of a great red dragon, a leopard-like beast, and a beast with lamblike horns, the earthly governments which would especially engage in trampling upon God's law and persecuting His people, were presented to John. The war is carried on till the close of time. The people of God, symbolized by a holy woman and her children, were represented as greatly in the minority. In the last days only a remnant still existed. Of these John speaks as they "which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

"Through paganism, and then through the Papacy, Satan exerted his power for many centuries in an effort to blot from the earth God's faithful witnesses. Pagans and papists were actuated by the same dragon spirit. They differed only in that the Papacy, making a pretense of serving God, was the more dangerous and cruel foe. Through the agency of Romanism, Satan took the world captive. The professed church of God was swept into the ranks of this delusion, and for more than a thousand years the people of God suffered under the dragon's ire. **And when the Papacy, robbed of its strength, was forced to desist from persecution, John beheld a new power coming up to echo the dragon's voice, and carry forward the same cruel and blasphemous work. This power, the last that is to wage war against the church and the law of God, was symbolized by a beast with lamblike horns.** The beasts preceding it had risen from the sea, but this came up out of the earth, representing the peaceful rise of the nation which is symbolized. The "two horns like a lamb" well represent the character of the United States Government, as expressed in its two fundamental principles, Republicanism and Protestantism. These principles are the secret of our power and prosperity as a nation. Those who first found an asylum on the shores of America rejoiced that they had reached a country free from the arrogant claims

of popery and the tyranny of kingly rule. They determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of civil and religious liberty.

But the stern tracing of the prophetic pencil reveals a change in this peaceful scene. The beast with lamblike horns speaks with the voice of a dragon, and “exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him.” Prophecy declares that he will say to them that dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the beast, and that “he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads; and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” ***Thus Protestantism follows in the steps of the Papacy.” ST Nov. 1, 1899.***



CHAPTER 2



PROPHETIC PRELUDE

Part 2

THE PURPOSES & ROLE OF THE PAPACY

The Roman Catholic Papacy was *the* church-state world controlling persecutory power during the middle ages, in fact, from 538 to 1798 AD. It was, in fact, the fifth of the seven heads of the seven-headed beast (which seven-headed beast is mentioned in Revelation 12, 13, and 17.) We can list the first five heads: *Babylon, MedoPersia, Greece, Pagan Rome, The Medieval Papacy*(538-1798).

The Protestant Reformation which started in 1517, and by 1529 had become a formidable religious power began and continued to weaken the stranglehold that the Papacy had on the European Nations; and by 1773 persecution had almost wholly ceased and the Papacy was disabled as a civil-ecclesiastical power. But the official termination of the 1260 year Papal European dominance was occasioned by the French Revolutionary Government, when

in 1798 Napoleon's General Berthier captured and took Pope Pius the Sixth back to France as a prisoner. The Atheistic Revolution in France was really an attack on the Bible and by that attack added the “finishing touch” to the “deadly wound” of *church-state persecutory* alliance. The French Atheistic Directory claimed that people should have the right *not to believe, if they so chose; but it carried matters to an extreme when it denied the right to believe to those who chose to believe and abolished the Bible all religion in the French Revolution of the 1793 to 1796.*

Meanwhile across the Atlantic Ocean, the architects of the American Constitution and American Republicanism accepted and implemented the *principle* that *the right not to believe* should be a fundamental human right ; and that the *right to believe* should also be a fundamental human right. Moreover they asserted that those rights should *not* be removed by either church or state. In other words both non-believers (the Godless) and believers (whether Roman Catholic or Protestants or any religion) should be allowed to live in the same country,with the same liberties, under the jurisdiction of the civil laws of the civil government. Thus was born the best Constitution for human rights and liberty of conscience in history! So, unlike the French Revolution, the American peaceful freedom revolution guaranteed *liberty of conscience* for both believers and nonbelievers! The principles of Protestantism and Republicanism were developed as the *two lamb-like horns* on the Revelation 13:11 beast from the earth.

Prophecy foretells that the time will come when American apostate Protestantism will persuade the people and Government of the USA to *remove* the *right not* to believe and *compel all* (including the Godless and irreligious) to worship a particular brand of false-Christianity symbolized as the *image* and *Mark of the beast*.

The Papacy, having lost her power to control the civil government, will *strongly urge on* the Protestant churches to employ the civil government to *enforce* Sunday sacredness and Sunday worship, when the time is ripe! For many years the Papacy has been infiltrating Protestantism and has been insidiously working to erode the principles of Protestantism especially the principle of separation of church and state.

Since she, the Papacy, has no power to enforce any of her dogmas by the state (as she did in the Middle Ages), she has to wait until the USA Protestantism convinces the people and Congress of America to change the Constitution so as to enforce popery. By *popery* is meant the *modus operandi* of the Roman Catholic Church in the middle Ages when she employed the civil governments of Europe to punish dissent from her dogmas and to enforce Sunday worship as her Mark of authority. *Popery* will be restored by the USA Apostate Protestantism when, having abandoned the principles of Protestantism, she convinces the USA civil government to abandon the principles of Republicanism and enforce Sunday worship by civil law, the *image* and *Mark of the Beast*.

As the Papacy realizes the progressive departure of Protestantism from its original protestant principles, she knows that it will be only a matter of time before the *principles* of popery be restored (as **was** in the **Middle Ages**) by her Protestant daughters. As world conditions deteriorate and the Protestant Churches persuade the masses that the judgements of God are being poured out because of the desecration of Sunday, the Papacy will strongly encourage the **Protestant call** for civil government to enforce **Sunday worship!** The miracle working power of demonic Spiritualism will perform miracles to support the Sunday law movement. Thus the Papacy and spiritualism will give their full support to **USA False Protestantism** to remove the safeguards of the American Constitution and establish *church-state* enforcement of **Sunday Worship**.

“Since the middle of the nineteenth century, students of prophecy in the United States have presented this testimony to the world. In the events now taking place is seen a rapid advance toward the fulfillment of the prediction. With Protestant teachers there is the same claim of divine authority for Sundaykeeping, and the same lack of Scriptural evidence, as with the papal leaders who fabricated miracles to supply the place of a command from God. The assertion that God’s judgments are visited upon men for their violation of the Sunday-sabbath, will be repeated; already it is beginning to be urged. And a movement to enforce Sunday observance is fast gaining ground. GC 579.1

Marvelous in her shrewdness and cunning is the Roman Church. She can read what is to be. She bides her time, seeing that the Protestant churches are paying her homage

in their acceptance of the false sabbath and that they are preparing to enforce it by the very means which she herself employed in bygone days. Those who reject the light of truth will yet seek the aid of this self-styled infallible power to exalt an institution that originated with her. How readily she will come to the help of Protestants in this work it is not difficult to conjecture. Who understands better than the papal leaders how to deal with those who are disobedient to the church?" GC 580.1

The world's encounter with the Covid19 Corona virus pandemic clearly shows us how quickly panic can develop in our modern highly technologically advanced world, bringing mighty nations to emergency measures and even to total shut down. As such pestilences and other calamities continue to increase, fear and panic will make the masses easily susceptible to sweet-sounding promises of church-state enforcement of Sunday worship to halt the judgements of God.

“When the State shall enforce the decrees and sustain the institutions of the church, then will Protestant America have formed an image of the Papacy. Then the true church will be assailed by persecution as were God’s people in ancient times.” ST Nov.8, 1899

“The decree which is to go forth against the people of God in the near future is in some respects similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews in the time of Esther. The Persian edict sprang from the malice of Haman against Mordecai. Not that Mordecai had done Haman harm, but he had refused to flatter his vanity by showing him the reverence which is due only to God. The king’s decision against

the Jews was secured under false pretenses. Satan instigated this scheme in order to rid the earth of those who preserved a knowledge of the true God. But his plots were defeated by a counter-power that reigns among the children of men. Angels who excel in strength were commissioned to protect the people of God, and the plots of their adversaries returned upon their own heads.

History repeats itself. The same masterful mind that plotted against the faithful in ages past is now at work to gain control of the Protestant churches, that through them he may condemn and put to death all who will not worship the idol Sabbath. We have not to battle with man, as it may appear. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. But if the people of God will put their trust in Him, and by faith rely upon His power, the devices of Satan will be defeated in our time as signally as in the days of Mordecai.

The decree is to go forth that all who will not receive the mark of the beast shall neither buy nor sell, and, finally, that they shall be put to death. But the saints of God do not receive this mark. The prophet of Patmos beheld those that had gotten the victory over the beast and over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having the harps of God, and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

To every soul will come the searching test, Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Satan is putting forth his

utmost efforts in the rage of a last despairing struggle against Christ and His followers. False teachers are employing every device possible to stimulate the hardened sinner in his rebellious daring, to confirm the questioning, the doubting, the unbelieving, and, by misrepresentation and falsehood, to deceive, if it were possible, the very elect. Who are prepared to stand firmly under the banner on which is inscribed, “The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus”?



CHAPTER 3



The Final Swelling of the Third Angel Before the Loud Cry

PERILOUS TIMES (2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5, LUKE 21:25-26)

Notwithstanding the amazing advances in science, technology, medicine and indeed all branches of learning, the problems which beset the modern world are quantitatively and qualitatively alarming! On every hand and in every land there is a frightening increase in crime, lawlessness, immorality, vice and corruption. Drug trafficking, terrorism, and war continue to defy all efforts to stop them.

In the meantime natural disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, famines and pandemics, continue to increase. The “green-house” effect caused by the increasing quantities of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will continue to produce global warming and disastrous changes in the global climate. In addition, the waste by-products of industry continue to pollute land, air and water. As earth’s population continues to increase, the ability of the planet to sustain and maintain life is

rapidly becoming seriously compromised. All of these problems will continue to increase and will approach the level at which human expertise will be overwhelmed.

THE RESPONSE OF THE POPULAR CHURCHES TO INCREASING GODLESSNESS

The widespread materialistic secularism, godlessness and lawlessness of this ultra-modern age coupled with the challenges of non-Christian religions, will strongly influence the denominations of the Christian religion to unite for the purpose of strengthening their Christian influence and improving the moral tone of society. The protestant denominational churches will call for a closer cooperation between church and state, and will influence the government to enforce already existing laws governing moral behavior.

The Most Critical Factor

But the most critical factor will be the **spiritual ripening** of God's true believers in the third angel's message. As the Laodicean message of Revelation 3:14-21 (EW 269-271) produces a faithful group who approach the stage of spiritual growth called the **ear** (Mark 4:26-29), Satan will be forced to make his moves toward the implementation of the **image and mark of the beast**.

EVENTUALLY CONDITIONS WILL BE CONDUCIVE

At a certain critical point, when all the various conditions will be just right, the first definite calls will be made for a national Sunday law **to enforce** Sunday sacredness in the USA. These **first** calls for a USA national Sunday law will trigger national debates, discussions,

and agitation which will intensify until finally, **after a certain period of time**, a USA national Sunday law will be passed by the USA Congress. The duration or period of time between the **first** calls for the Sunday law and the **actual final passing** of the national Sunday law will be a critical but, as yet, unknown length of time. Whatever the duration of this period it will be a time when historians, economists, trade unionists, lawyers, constitutional experts, social workers, educators, and ordinary citizens will give their arguments for or against the proposal. But the most important component in the agitation will be the religious component.

Why? For the answer we go to *The Great Controversy*, page 605.

“Heretofore those who presented the truths of the third angel’s message have often been regarded as mere alarmists. Their predictions that religious intolerance would gain control in the United States, that church and state would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God, have been pronounced groundless and absurd. It has been confidently declared that this land could never become other than what it has been—the defender of religious freedom. But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before.” GC 605.

It should be clearly seen from the statement just quoted that the passing of the national USA Sunday law is not something that will steal upon us secretly or suddenly. See 2 Thessalonians 5:4. Rather, on account of the widespread agitation, **it will be seen to be approaching**, and as it approaches the third angel’s message will

swell in power and glory and will produce an **effect** which it could not have had before the period of agitation. However, this will **not** yet be the loud cry because the loud cry (as we shall see later) commences **after** the official passing of the national Sunday law. Let us now look at the main religious events occurring during this period of agitation **before** the actual passing of the national Sunday law.

THE SUNDAY MOVEMENT

The fundamental evangelical Sunday-keeping Protestant denominations in the USA will be foremost in leading the call for Sunday sacredness to be enforced by law. And as the agitation intensifies the older more established protestant denominations will throw their ecclesiastical weight fully behind the drive for a national Sunday law. Roman Catholicism will add her support for Sunday rest enforcement by the state.

The **initial** reasons put forward for a national Sunday law will **not** be directed against Sabbath-keepers but rather will be directed against the alarming lawlessness, crime, and increasing natural disasters. The leaders in the Sunday-keeping Protestant churches will put forward the claim that the fast-spreading corruption is largely attributable to the desecration of the Christian Sunday. Moreover they will assert, with increasing adamance, that the enforcement of Sunday sacredness will greatly improve the morals of society and bring back the blessings of God to heal the nation. They will, no doubt, review the history of early America when strict Sunday blue-laws were the order of the day and the moral tone of society was vastly superior to what it is today. They will argue that America's early success and

stability were the direct result of her deep-seated Christian heritage and therefore a return to that heritage will produce national healing.

It will also be claimed that the legislation of Sunday rest and worship will improve family life and put a halt to the alarming waywardness of the nation's youth. Trade unionists, sociologists, and social workers will add their support since a compulsory day of rest would greatly improve the efficiency of the work-force and help to ease the stress of modern fast-paced living.

Secularists will welcome a day of tranquility without the religious trappings. They will be more inclined to accept the "civil-regulation" basis. Civil regulation means that the state may appoint a day as a national holiday whether or not there is a religious sentiment attached to that day.

But the churches will agitate for Sunday to be officially recognized as the Lord's day and they will argue that without this religious basis the whole exercise would be pointless. They will declare that for the Sunday rest to have any serious moral impact upon the nation it must be accepted as the Christian Sabbath.

THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE SWELLS

Remember that we are focusing now on the period of time when the question of enforcing Sunday observance will be widely agitated. This event, so long doubted and disbelieved, will be seen to be approaching. **During that period of time God's people will clearly spell out the reasons why a Sunday law should not be passed.** The true seventh-day Sabbath will be presented more clearly within the context of the true gospel and character of God!

In addition the Biblical principles of religious liberty (**liberty of conscience**) will be clearly enunciated. Moreover all of the true doctrines and true prophetic interpretations will be thoroughly expounded thereby exposing popular religious errors! God's people will explain carefully what is meant by the **image** and **mark** of the beast. The people will be told about the fatal consequences of enforcing Sunday sacredness. During that period of time, the true Sabbath-keepers of God will press together in fasting and praying and agonizing for more of the Holy Spirit and total victory over sin. Many professed seventh-day believers will appear to be joining in this effort as well, but later events will produce a final shaking!

**THE ROLE OF SPIRITUALISM (REVELATION 16:13-14,
2 CORINTHIANS 11:13-15)**

False prophets will proclaim that God has spoken to them in dreams and visions confirming that it is His will to have a national Sunday Sabbath. Miracles will be performed in support of the Sunday movement. And dazzling spiritual manifestations resembling Pentecost will be accepted as God's stamp of approval for Sunday legislation.

*“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.”
Revelation 13:13-14.*

“The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.” GC 588.

SOME WILL SHOW NO INTEREST AT THIS STAGE

Notwithstanding the widespread agitation, some people will show no interest in the debate during this period before the actual passing of the national Sunday law (of course this will all change after the Sunday law has been passed and the loud cry has commenced).

Many will consider the Sunday law agitation to be just another modern national debate with no real relevance to their daily living.

THE SUNDAY MOVEMENT WILL SUCCEED IN THEIR AIMS

Eventually enough people will be persuaded and enough pressure will be exerted on the US Congress to make the necessary changes to, or simply to interpret differently, the first amendment of the US constitution so as to allow a national Sunday law to be passed. In other words, the period of agitation after the first definite calls for Sunday legislation will end with the passing of the USA national Sunday law.

Rev. 13,14,15

“The religious organizations of the day have refused to listen to unpopular truths plainly brought to view in the Scriptures, and in combating them they have adopted interpretations and taken positions which have sown broadcast the seeds of skepticism. Clinging to the papal error of natural immortality and man's consciousness in death, they have rejected the only defense against the delusions of spiritualism. The doctrine of eternal torment has led many to disbelieve the Bible. And as the claims of the fourth commandment are urged upon the people, it is found that the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath is enjoined; and as the only way to free themselves from a duty which they are unwilling to perform, many popular teachers declare that the law of God is no longer binding. Thus they cast away the law and the Sabbath together. As the work of Sabbath reform extends, this rejection of the divine law to avoid the claims of the fourth commandment will become well-nigh universal. The teachings of religious leaders have opened the door to infidelity, to spiritualism, and to contempt for God's holy law; and upon these leaders rests a fearful responsibility for the iniquity that exists in the Christian world.

“Yet this very class put forth the claim that the fast-spreading corruption is largely attributable to the desecration of the so-called 'Christian sabbath,' and that the enforcement of Sunday observance would greatly improve the morals of society. This claim is especially urged in America, where the doctrine of the true Sabbath has been most widely preached. Here the temperance work, one of the most prominent and important of moral reforms, is often combined with the Sunday movement, and the advocates of the latter represent themselves as laboring to promote the highest interest of society; and those who refuse to unite with them are denounced as the enemies of temperance

and reform. But the fact that a movement to establish error is connected with a work which is in itself good, is not an argument in favor of the error. We may disguise poison by mingling it with wholesome food, but we do not change its nature. On the contrary, it is rendered more dangerous, as it is more likely to be taken unawares. It is one of Satan's devices to combine with falsehood just enough truth to give it plausibility. The leaders of the Sunday movement may advocate reforms which the people need, principles which are in harmony with the Bible; yet while there is with these a requirement which is contrary to God's law, His servants cannot unite with them. Nothing can justify them in setting aside the commandments of God for the precepts of men.

"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. 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.

"As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power." GC 586-588.

THE GREAT CRISIS IS BEFORE US

“The great crisis is before us, and every one is to act as though his own soul was at stake. The most important question of all is, How shall I save my soul, for which Christ died? How shall I be holy, as he is holy? It is time to be seeking for the forgiveness of your sins, for the assurance that your names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Let every one realize that he is not his own, but has been bought with a price, even with the blood of the Son of God.

“Live by the day for Christ. Seek to be a victor just for this one day; for you do not know that you have another day to live. Confess your sins today. You have the promises of pardon.

“The Lord says, ‘Let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me.’ God is in earnest with us. He has borne long and patiently with us, and the light that has shone upon us from the throne of his glory will not lessen our responsibility, but, if we fail to improve it, will leave us without excuse. God will not be trifled with. You may ask, What shall I do to advance the light of truth? I answer, Work humbly for God; do not exalt yourself, but remember that you are standing upon holy ground. We are living in the last days, and the great question is, How shall I stand before God? Every one is responsible for the light he has received. What have you done with the light of heaven? Have you put it under a bushel?

“There is a great work to be done; for we are to reach the people with the divine light of truth, not in our own way, but through the power and Spirit of God. God will use us as instruments in his hand, if we will yield ourselves to him. O that all may make the effort essential to win eternal life! Every soul is precious in the sight of God. He declares by

the prophet, 'I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.' This preciousness will be wrought in the soul that is connected with Christ; but our own ways must be abandoned, our own thoughts must be put away.

"Jesus says, 'Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.' O, shall Jesus plead in vain for an entrance into your heart? Clear away the rubbish from the door, and let him in, and you will know what is the comfort and peace of his blessing. I present before you the Man of Calvary. He can save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by him. The more you have of Jesus, the more you will desire a closer connection with him, and your soul will be hid with Christ in God, and thus be prepared when he shall come with power and great glory.

"'And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.' Not in self-confidence, not in self-exaltation, are we to pass the time of our sojourning, but in fear working with Christ for the salvation of others. We are to live as on holy ground, and when the Master shall appear in glory, we can say, 'This is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us.'" RH, August 18, 1891.



CHAPTER 4



The Image and Mark of the Beast

In our last chapter we saw clearly that **before** the passing of the USA national Sunday law, **during** the period of agitation and debate as to whether or not such a law should be passed, the third angel's message will be **swelling**. This **final swelling** will be caused by the **increasing** outpouring of the Holy Spirit in maximum early rain showers in anticipation of the final latter rain outpouring. During the **final swelling**, the messages of the **true** gospel and the **true** character of God will be the basis of a fuller, clearer presentation of the law of God; the seventh-day Sabbath; principles of religious liberty; and correct prophetic interpretation. The two dangerous false doctrines of Sunday-sacredness and the natural immortality of the soul will be fully exposed by the presentation of the **full message of righteousness by faith!**

All of this means that the Sunday keeping leaders and congregations will be given God's light on these subjects during the period of agitation! The people of God will not sit idly by and allow the Sunday movement to obtain its objectives without fully warning the people against it by fully ventilating the issues involved!

Yet, notwithstanding the swelling of the third angel in warning the nation, the USA national Sunday law will **eventually** be passed.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW

The passing of the national Sunday law will establish a critically terminal eschatological landmark in the closing scenes of this world's history. It will indicate that:

- 1 The image and mark of the beast have been set up.
- 2 The final latter rain outpouring and the loud cry are about to begin.
- 3 The latter rain ripening of the remnant elect from the **ear** to the **full corn in the ear** is about to commence.
- 4 The early, lesser time of trouble is about to begin and **will** produce the final shaking among professed believers of the third angel's message.

THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST (REVELATION 13:11-18)

“By this first beast is represented the Roman Church, an ecclesiastical body clothed with civil power, having authority to punish all dissenters. The image to the beast represents another religious body clothed with similar powers. The formation of this image is the work of that beast whose peaceful rise and mild professions render it so striking a symbol of the United States. Here is to be found an image of the Papacy. When the churches of our land, uniting upon such points of faith as are held by them in common, shall influence the State to enforce their decrees and sustain their institutions, then will Protestant America have formed an

image of the Roman hierarchy. Then the true church will be assailed by persecution, as were God's ancient people." SR 381-382.

By the **first** beast in Revelation 13, the leopard bodied beast, is represented the Papacy. Revelation 13:1-10 is a description of the 1260 year world dominance of the Papacy during the "Dark Ages" 538-1798 AD. This leopardlike beast is identical with the "**little horn**" of Daniel 7.

By the **second** beast in Revelation 13, the beast with two horns like a lamb, is represented the USA.

"'And he had two horns like a lamb.' The lamblike horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness, fitly representing the character of the United States when presented to the prophet as 'coming up' in 1798. Among the Christian exiles who first fled to America and sought an asylum from royal oppression and priestly intolerance were many who determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of civil and religious liberty. Their views found place in the Declaration of Independence, which sets forth the great truth that 'all men are created equal' and endowed with the inalienable right to 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.' And the Constitution guarantees to the people the right of self-government, providing that representatives elected by the popular vote shall enact and administer the laws. Freedom of religious faith was also granted, every man being permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. Republicanism and Protestantism became the fundamental principles of the nation. These principles are the secret of its power and prosperity. The oppressed and downtrodden throughout Christendom have turned to this land with interest and hope. Millions have sought its

shores, and the United States has risen to a place among the most powerful nations of the earth.

“But the beast with lamblike horns ‘spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed;...saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.’ Revelation 13:11-14.

“The lamblike horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contradiction between the professions and the practice of the nation thus represented. The ‘speaking’ of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. By such action it will give the lie to those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy. The prediction that it will speak ‘as a dragon’ and exercise ‘all the power of the first beast’ plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution that was manifested by the nations represented by the dragon and the leopardlike beast. And the statement that the beast with two horns ‘causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast’ indicates that the authority of this nation is to be exercised in enforcing some observance which shall be an act of homage to the papacy.

“Such action would be directly contrary to the principles of this government, to the genius of its free institutions, to the direct and solemn avowals of the Declaration of Independence, and to the Constitution. The founders of the nation wisely sought to guard against the employment of secular power on the part of the church, with its inevitable result— intolerance and persecution. The Constitution provides that ‘Congress shall make no law respecting an

establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' and that 'no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office of public trust under the United States.' Only in flagrant violation of these safeguards to the nation's liberty, can any religious observance be enforced by civil authority. But the inconsistency of such action is no greater than is represented in the symbol. It is the beast with lamblike horns—in profession pure, gentle, and harmless—that speaks as a dragon.

“‘Saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast.’ Here is clearly presented a form of government in which the legislative power rests with the people, a most striking evidence that the United States is the nation denoted in the prophecy.

“But what is the ‘image to the beast’? and how is it to be formed? The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image to the beast. It is also called an image of the beast. Then to learn what the image is like and how it is to be formed we must study the characteristics of the beast itself—the papacy.

“When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of ‘heresy.’ In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.

“Whenever the church has obtained secular power, she has employed it to punish dissent from her doctrines. Protestant churches that have followed in the steps of Rome by forming alliance with worldly powers have manifested a similar desire to restrict liberty of conscience. An example of this is given in the long-continued persecution of dissenters by the Church of England. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, thousands of nonconformist ministers were forced to flee from their churches, and many, both of pastors and people, were subjected to fine, imprisonment, torture, and martyrdom.” GC 441-443.

“The beast with two horns ‘causeth [commands] all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.’ Revelation 13:16, 17. The third angel’s warning 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.’ ‘The beast’ mentioned in this message, whose worship is enforced by the two-horned beast, is the first, or leopardlike beast of Revelation 13—the papacy. The ‘image to the beast’ represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas. The ‘mark of the beast’ still remains to be defined.

“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.” GC 445.

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

“The special characteristic of the beast, and therefore of his image, is the breaking of God's commandments. Says Daniel, of the little horn, the papacy: ‘He shall think to change times and the law.’ Daniel 7:25, R.V. And Paul styled the same power the ‘man of sin,’ who was to exalt himself above God. One prophecy is a complement of the other. Only by changing God's law could the papacy exalt itself above God; whoever should understandingly keep the law as thus changed would be giving supreme honor to that power by which the change was made. Such an act of obedience to papal laws would be a mark of allegiance to the pope in the place of God.

“The papacy has attempted to change the law of God. These cond commandment, forbidding image worship, has been dropped from the law, and the fourth commandment has been so changed as to authorize the observance of the first instead of the seventh day as the Sabbath. But papists urge, as a reason for omitting the second commandment, that it is unnecessary, being included in the first, and that they are giving the law exactly as God designed it to be understood. This cannot be the change foretold by the prophet. An intentional, deliberate change is presented: ‘He shall think to change the times and the law.’ The change in the fourth commandment exactly fulfills the prophecy. For this the only authority claimed is that of the church. Here the papal power openly sets itself above God.

“While the worshipers of God will be especially distinguished by their regard for the fourth commandments,—since this is the sign of His creative power and the witness to His claim upon man's reverence and homage,—the worshipers of the

beast will be distinguished by their efforts to tear down the Creator's memorial, to exalt the institution of Rome. It was in behalf of the Sunday that popery first asserted its arrogant claims (see Appendix); and its first resort to the power of the state was to compel the observance of Sunday as 'the Lord's day.' But the Bible points to the seventh day, and not to the first, as the Lord's day. Said Christ: 'The Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.' The fourth commandment declares: 'The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord.' And by the prophet Isaiah the Lord designates it: 'My holy day.' Mark 2:28; Isaiah 58:13.

"The claim so often put forth that Christ changed the Sabbath is disproved by His own words. In His Sermon on the Mount He said: 'Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven,' Matthew 5:17-19.

"It is a fact generally admitted by Protestants that the Scriptures give no authority for the change of the Sabbath. This is plainly stated in publications issued by the American Tract Society and the American Sunday School Union. One of these works acknowledges 'the complete silence of the New Testament so far as any explicit command for the Sabbath [Sunday, the first day of the week] or definite rules for its observance are concerned.'—George Elliott, *The Abiding Sabbath*, page 184." GC 445-447.

“Roman Catholics acknowledge that the change of the Sabbath was made by their church, and declare that Protestants by observing the Sunday are recognizing her power. In the Catholic Catechism of Christian Religion, in answer to a question as to the day to be observed in obedience to the fourth commandment, this statement is made: ‘During the old law, Saturday was the day sanctified; but the church, instructed by Jesus Christ, and directed by the Spirit of God, has substituted Sunday for Saturday; so now we sanctify the first, not the seventh day. Sunday means, and now is, the day of the Lord.’

“As the sign of the authority of the Catholic Church, papist writers cite ‘the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of;...because by keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the church’s power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin.’—Henry Tuberville, *An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine*, page 58. What then is the change of the Sabbath, but the sign, or mark, of the authority of the Roman Church—‘the mark of the beast’?

“The Roman Church has not relinquished her claim to supremacy; and when the world and the Protestant churches accept a sabbath of her creating, while they reject the Bible Sabbath, they virtually admit this assumption. They may claim the authority of tradition and of the Fathers for the change; but in so doing they ignore the very principle which separates them from Rome—that ‘the Bible, and the Bible only, is the religion of Protestants.’ The papist can see that they are deceiving themselves, willingly closing their eyes to the facts in the case. As the movement for Sunday enforcement gains favor, he rejoices, feeling assured that it will eventually bring the whole Protestant world under the banner of Rome.

“Romanists declare that ‘the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church.’—Mgr. Segur, *Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today*, page 213. The enforcement of Sunday keeping on the part of Protestant churches is an enforcement of the worship of the papacy—of the beast. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false instead of the true Sabbath are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. But in the very act of enforcing a religious duty by secular power, the churches would themselves form an image to the beast; hence the enforcement of Sunday keeping in the United States would be an enforcement of the worship of the beast and his image.

“But Christians of past generations observed the Sunday, supposing that in so doing they were keeping the Bible Sabbath; and there are now true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion, who honestly believe that Sunday is the Sabbath of divine appointment. God accepts their sincerity of purpose and their integrity before Him. But when Sunday observance shall be enforced by law, and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thereby honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome and to the power which enforces the institution ordained by Rome. He is worshipping the beast and his image. As men then reject the institution which God has declared to be the sign of His authority, and honor in its stead that which Rome has chosen as the token of her supremacy, they will thereby accept the sign of allegiance to Rome—‘the mark of the

beast.' And it is not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive 'the mark of the beast.'

"The most fearful threatening ever addressed to mortals is contained in the third angel's message. That must be a terrible sin which calls down the wrath of God unmingled with mercy. Men are not to be left in darkness concerning this important matter; the warning against this sin is to be given to the world before the visitation of God's judgments, that all may know why they are to be inflicted, and have opportunity to escape them. Prophecy declares that the first angel would make his announcement to 'every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.' The warning of the third angel, which forms a part of the same threefold message, is to be no less widespread. It is represented in the prophecy as being proclaimed with a loud voice, by an angel flying in the midst of heaven; and it will command the attention of the world." GC 447-450.

USA NATIONAL APOSTASY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY NATIONAL RUIN

"A time is coming when the law of God is, in a special sense, to be made void in our land (USA). The rulers of our nation will, by legislative enactments, enforce the Sunday law, and thus God's people be brought into great peril. When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes,

be made void in our land; and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin." RH Dec 18, 1888.

THE DEVICE OF SATAN PERFECTED

By the setting up of the image and mark of the beast, the **device** of Satan will be perfected. He will then be equipped for his final battle against God's true law, God's **true** gospel, and God's **true** people. By the passing of the US national Sunday law, and then the global Sunday law, Satan will have perfected his device for his final war against God's Government! In fact by inducing the USA and ultimately the whole world to pass national and international Sunday laws, Satan will be openly declaring final war (Armageddon) against God's government!

"There will be an effort made to unsettle the faith of every believer in present truth. Since Satan fell from heaven, he has been trampling underfoot the word of God, and putting something of his own devising in its place. His work has been accepted as the work of God. 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." RH, April 15, 1890.

THE NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW FULLY DISCONNECTS THE USA FROM RIGHTEOUSNESS

"By the decreen forcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution

as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.

“As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the limit of God’s forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation’s iniquity is full, and that the angel of mercy is about to take her flight, never to return.” 5T 451.

CLOSING ADMONITION

“God calls upon us to awake, for the end is near. Every passing hour is one of activity in the heavenly courts to make ready a people upon the earth to act a part in the great scenes that are soon to open upon us. These passing moments, that seem of so little value to us, are weighty with eternal interests. They are molding the destiny of souls for everlasting life or eternal death. The words we utter today in the ears of the people, the works we are doing, the spirit of the message we are bearing, will be a savor of life unto life or of death unto death.

“My brethren, do you realize that your own salvation, as well as the destiny of other souls, depends upon the preparation you now make for the trial before us? Have you that intensity of zeal, that piety and devotion, which will enable you to stand when opposition shall be brought against you? If God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when you will be brought before councils, and every position of truth which you hold will be severely criticized. The time that so many are now allowing to go to waste should be devoted to the charge that God has given us of preparing for the approaching crisis.

“The law of God should be loved and honored by His true people now more than ever before. There is the most imperative necessity of urging the injunction of Christ upon the minds and hearts of all believers, men and women, youth and children: ‘Search the Scriptures.’ Study your Bible as you have never studied it before. Unless you arise to a higher, holier state in your religious life, you will not be ready for the appearing of our Lord. As great light has been given, God expects corresponding zeal, faithfulness, and devotion on the part of His people.

There must be more spirituality, a deeper consecration to God, and a zeal in His work that has never yet been reached. Much time should be spent in prayer, that our garments of character may be washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb.” 5T 716-717.



CHAPTER 5



The Loud Cry Begins

The loud cry will be the response of God's people to the establishment of the image and mark of the beast. It will be the **final** warning given to the world, will announce Babylon's **final** fall, and will commence **after** the passing of the Sunday law.

Remember that **before** the passing of the Sunday law, **during** the period of discussion and agitation, the third angel's message will be swelling **towards** the loud cry. Then at the **right** time, which means the time when the third angel's message is to be given with **greatest** power, the mighty power of the Revelation 18 angel joins the third angel's message in the power of the latter rain to begin the loud cry of the final warning!

And when will that time be?

It will be immediately after the passing of the national Sunday law which will indicate that the image and mark of the beast have been set up **and therefore Babylon the great, apostate Protestantism, has suffered her final fall!**

Let us now read the description of the opening of the **loud cry** from the Bible and then two Spirit of Prophecy sources.

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.² And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” Revelation 18:1-2.

“I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven, descending to the earth, and again ascending to heaven, preparing for the fulfillment of some important event. Then I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which attended this angel penetrated everywhere, as he cried mightily, with a strong voice, ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.’ **The message of the fall of Babylon, as given by the second angel, is repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the churches since 1844.** The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel’s message as it swells to a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet. I saw a great light resting upon them, and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel’s message.” EW 277.

Now, from *The Great Controversy*:

“I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.' 'And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.' Revelation 18:1, 2, 4.

"This scripture points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Revelation 14 (verse 8), is to be repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given, in the summer of 1844. A terrible condition of the religious world is here described. With every rejection of truth the minds of the people will become darker, their hearts more stubborn, until they are entrenched in an infidel hardihood. In defiance of the warnings which God has given, they will continue to trample upon one of the precepts of the Decalogue, until they are led to persecute those who hold it sacred. Christ is set at naught in the contempt placed upon His word and His people. As the teachings of spiritualism are accepted by the churches, the restraint imposed upon the carnal heart is removed, and the profession of religion will become a cloak to conceal the basest iniquity. A belief in spiritual manifestations opens the door to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and thus the influence of evil angels will be felt in the churches.

"Of Babylon, at the time brought to view in this prophecy, it is declared: 'Her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.' Revelation 18:5. She has filled up the measure of her guilt, and destruction is about to fall upon her. But God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of His judgments these faithful ones must

be called out, that they partake not of her sins and 'receive not of her plagues.' Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from heaven, lightening the earth with his glory and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard: 'Come out of her, My people. 'These announcements, uniting with the third angel's message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth.'" GC 603-604.

THE ISSUES AT STAKE

The passing of the USA national Sunday law will induce the world to follow suit and will lead to the universal Sunday law.

"When the land which the Lord provided as an asylum for his people, that they might worship him according to the dictates of their own consciences, the land over which for long years the shield of Omnipotence has been spread, the land which God has favored by making it the depository of the pure religion of Christ,—when that land shall, through its legislators, abjure the principles of Protestantism, and give countenance to Romish apostasy in tampering with God's law,—it is then that the final work of the man of sin will be revealed. 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. Then it will be time for God to work in mighty power for the vindication of his truth." ST, June 12, 1893.

"The prophet says: 'I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice,

saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen....And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.' **When do her sins reach unto heaven? When the law of God is finally made void by legislation.** Then the extremity of God's people is his opportunity to show who is the governor of heaven and earth. As a Satanic power is stirring up the elements from beneath, God will send light and power to his people, that the message of truth may be proclaimed to all the world." ST, June 12, 1893.

"The decree enforcing the worship of this day is to go forth to all the world." ST May 6, 1894.

The national and international Sunday laws will bring the world to its **final** and **most fearful** issue!

"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' (Revelation 13:16), shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand, the law of God enjoining the Creator's rest day demands obedience and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts.

"With the issue thus clearly brought before him, whoever shall trample upon God's law to obey a 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.' Revelation 14:9, 10.

"But not one is made to suffer the wrath of God until the truth has been brought home to his mind and conscience, and has been rejected. There are many who have never had an opportunity to hear the special truths for this time. The obligation of the fourth commandment has never been set before them in its true light. He who reads every heart and tries every motive will leave none who desire a knowledge of the truth, to be deceived as to the issues of the controversy. The decree is not to be urged upon the people blindly. Everyone is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently.

"The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. 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." GC 604-605.

IMPORTANT HISTORY OF HOW GOD WORKS IN A CRISIS

In all the religious crises of the past God sent His servants to rebuke sin in the world and in the religious organizations. So it will be again in the final showdown.

“In every generation God has sent His servants to rebuke sin, both in the world and in the church. But the people desire smooth things spoken to them, and the pure, unvarnished truth is not acceptable. Many reformers, in entering upon their work, determined to exercise great prudence in attacking the sins of the church and the nation. They hoped, by the example of a pure Christian life, to lead the people back to the doctrines of the Bible. But the Spirit of God came upon them as it came upon Elijah, moving him to rebuke the sins of a wicked king and an apostate people; they could not refrain from preaching the plain utterances of the Bible—doctrines which they had been reluctant to present. They were impelled to zealously declare the truth and the danger which threatened souls. The words which the Lord gave them they uttered, fearless of consequences, and the people were compelled to hear the warning.” GC 606.

GOD WILL QUALIFY HIS SERVANTS WITH THE LATTER RAIN AND SEND THEM FORTH

“Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to his service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of his Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open.

The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of Spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power,—all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from Heaven." GC 606.

The above paragraph describes the beginning of the “loud cry” or final warning. It contains some very important information which we need to analyze in order to understand it better.

First of all, the time comes for the third angel’s message to be given with greatest power which means that the image and mark of the beast have been set up by the **passing** of the Sunday law. That time having come, **and not before**, the LORD begins to work with latter rain power through **humble instruments**. We need to take a closer look at who these **humble instruments** are, and the messages they declare, before examining the nature of the popular response to them and the messages.

THE LOUD CRY SERVANTS

The humble instruments here described are those members of the third angel’s movement who have been victorious in the Laodicean shaking (Revelation 3:14-22 and EW 269-271), and who have reached the stage of growth called the “**ear**” by Jesus in Mark 4:26-29. The early rain of the Holy Spirit produces spiritual growth from initial conversion (the blade) to victory over every defect (the ear). The latter rain of the Holy Spirit produces **advanced ripening growth**

from the “ear” to the “**full corn in the ear**” which means Christian character perfection!

In other words, during the loud cry period, these servants are going to be ripened by the latter rain to the level of character maturity and perfection required to pass the judgment of the living and to receive the seal of God. And in the process of achieving these goals they will be victorious over the mark of the beast!

Therefore we should clearly understand that in order to pass the judgment of the living and to receive the seal of God a believer in the third angel’s message must emerge victorious in both the Laodicean shaking and the “mark of the beast” shaking. The Laodicean shaking started in 1859, reached a critical point in 1888, and has been continuing ever since. Only those who accept and experience the true message of righteousness by faith along with the advancing light on God’s character and the principles of His government will overcome Laodicean lukewarmness and reach the stage of the “ear”!

Seven characteristics of the primary loud cry messengers are given in this particular paragraph in *The Great Controversy*, page 606. Here is the list: humility, consecration, spirit-filled, men of faith, men of prayer, possessing holy zeal, filled with and declaring God’s words.

THEIR MESSAGES

The loud cry messengers will present the righteousness of Christ so fully and clearly that the **sins of Babylon will be laid open!** Since sin is the transgression of God’s law of unselfish Agape love (1 John 3:4, Matt. 23; 36-40; John 14: 15) this means that they will present

God's moral law and seventh-day Sabbath within the context of the everlasting gospel as Paul summarizes it in Romans 8:1-4.

They will also declare the fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil law by showing that freedom of conscience, in matters of faith and worship, is truly biblical and truly protestant!

The evils of spiritualism, leading the people to accept spiritistic manifestations in the place of, and in opposition to, the Bible, will be exposed. This will include a clear presentation on man's condition in death and the natural non-immortality of the human soul.

They will also declare the correct understanding of Bible prophecy and unmask the insidious, yet rapid progress, of the Papacy and its strategies. In so doing they will sweep away the false doctrines of the secret rapture, Middle Eastern Anti-Christ, and the false understanding of Armageddon! They will explain clearly that Babylon in the Revelation means false or fallen Protestantism, fallen because of persistent and progressive rejection of heaven-sent light.

THE EARLY RESPONSES TO THE LOUD CRY

The loud cry messages and warnings will be power-packed with the latter rain of the Holy Spirit and will be given with such scriptural clarity and convicting Holy Spirit power that the masses of people in Christendom, and the whole world, will be stirred in their innermost beings by the final gospel warning. Millions will be spellbound by messages the likes of which they never heard before! Some will quickly accept the messages but the majority will seek the advice and counsel of their religious leaders and teachers. When asked whether

or not the messages are true, the ministry of the popular churches will present the usual traditional arguments and false prophecies and try to trivialize the questions. But such will be the convicting power of the Holy Spirit that many will refuse to be satisfied with mere human ecclesiastical authority and will demand clear scriptural proof. This will enrage the popular ministry and they will denounce the loud cry message as of Satan and induce the sin-loving masses to heap ridicule and contempt on the messages and messengers.

“As the people go to their former teachers with the eager inquiry, Are these things so? the ministers present fables, prophesy smooth things, to soothe their fears, and quiet the awakened conscience. But since many refuse to be satisfied with the mere authority of men, and demand a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ the popular ministry, like the Pharisees of old, filled with anger as their authority is questioned, will denounce the message as of Satan, and stir up the sin-loving multitudes to revile and persecute those who proclaim it.” GC 606.

Notice here that the **first** measures which will be adopted against the people of God will **not** be drastic ones. The reason being that the religious and civil authorities will not at **first** think much of the small remnant of faithful loud cry servants. The authorities will think that the protest will be short-lived. In referring to the people of God in this early period of the loud cry, the Spirit of Prophecy speaks of them as the “**the little company who are standing in the light.**” 5T 209.

Remember that when the Sunday law is first passed, it will not be directed primarily against Sabbath keepers but against the widespread moral declension. The churches will seek the aid of the civil power and the latter will gladly comply in order to “save” the world from total moral collapse and from the judgments of God.

But when the true people of God, in latter rain Holy Spirit power, not only begin but maintain their final protest and their preaching of the loud-cry, the authorities will be shocked out of their complacency. This will precipitate a crisis which will intensify as the loud cry develops and will bring the whole world to the point of final decision and final tribulation.



CHAPTER 6



The Fundamental Principles of Religious Liberty

INTRODUCTION

The remnant people of God must have a clear and complete grasp of the basic Biblical principles of liberty of conscience in matters of faith and worship.

For a more complete study of these principles the reader is referred to two previous publications: (i) *The New World Economic Order—How Will It Affect You?* (ii) *Christianity and Civil Government*. However for the purposes of this camp meeting we shall revise the basic principles of liberty of conscience. We shall now study a comprehensive outline of these principles written early in the last century by an Adventist scholar, the late Francis Wilcox. Before we do so however, let us list the scriptural proof-lines for the Seventh-day Sabbath truth:

Line 1 — Creation-Redemption Rest: Genesis 2:1-3; Mark 2:27,28; Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 4:9-10, 4, 1-3.

Line 2 — Moral Law: Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 5:17-20; Romans 3:28-31; Romans 8:1-4; James 2:8-12; 1 John 5:2-3; Revelation 12:17; 14:12.

Line 3 — New Covenant: Galatians 3:15; Hebrews 9:17; Matthew 24:20; Galatians chapters 3 and 4.

THE COMING CRISIS, BY FRANCIS WILCOX — CHAPTER 5, “THE CHRISTIAN’S RELATION TO EARTHLY GOVERNMENT”

“In the crisis hour which awaits the church there will be witnessed a deadly conflict between the commandments of God and the laws of earthly government. How shall the Christian relate himself to this clash of opposing principles? What relation shall he sustain to his government?

“The duty of the Christian toward the government under which he lives is made clear in Holy Writ: *‘Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.’* Romans 13:1-2.

LIMITS OF THE AUTHORITY OF HUMAN GOVERNMENTS

“With what authority has God invested civil government? It is inconceivable that He should have bestowed upon it unlimited power. That would be to make earthly government, to the extent of human capability, equal to the government of God. It would be to place God’s work in the earth, His gospel, His church, the affairs of mankind, physically, socially, civilly, and spiritually, under the control of human government without reference to its attitude

toward the principles and problems involved. This we cannot believe the great Ruler of the universe would do.”

RELATION TO EARTHLY GOVERNMENT

“We are therefore forced to the conclusion that the jurisdiction of human government is limited to the sphere of civil relations, to the decision of questions governing the relation of man to his fellow men. There is a sphere—the personal relation of man to his Maker—into which civil government has no God-given or Heaven-ordained right to intrude.

GOD AND CAESAR

“Christ clearly recognized and taught this dividing line separating the authority of civil government from the sphere of spiritual relations. To some who came to Him inquiring whether it was right to pay tribute to Caesar, or civil government, the Master, after calling attention to the fact that they were recognizing Caesar's government by using Caesar's coinage, replied, *‘Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.’* See Matt. 22:16-21.

“There is a sphere in which Caesar may operate. In the field of civil relations he may range freely. He should be a terror to evil works, *‘a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.’* In this he is *‘the minister of God,’* and should be loyally supported with tribute—the Christian being subject to these civil enactments, *‘not only for wrath, but also for conscience’ sake.’* Romans 13:3-6.

“The Christian is to *‘render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom*

custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.' Romans 13:7-8. The apostle then proceeds to quote in substance the last five commandments, which define the civil relations of man. He makes no quotation from the first table of the law, because the first four commandments pertain to the relations of man to God, and belong alone to the sphere of God's government and jurisdiction. Into this sphere, as we have said, civil government has no right to enter.

CIVIL, NOT SPIRITUAL, JURISDICTION

“Nor does it belong to the sphere of civil government to deal with the second table of the law in the spiritual significance of the commandments of that table. This field belongs alone to God. With the civil relation defined in the last six commandments, the civil government may take account. The government has a right to punish the murderer, the adulterer, the thief, not because they have done a moral wrong, but because they have violated the law of civil ethics. The government can deal with overt acts only. God, however, looks beneath the overt act and takes account of the thoughts of the heart, of the motives and purposes of the life. In His estimate the man who hates his brother, even if he commits no overt act, is a murderer. See 1 John 3:15. The lustful man likewise violates the commandment, even though outwardly he may not offend against the law of chastity. See Matthew 5:28.

LOYALTY TO GOVERNMENT

“In an evil hour, either consciously or unconsciously, civil government oversteps the bounds God has set for it, and

seeks to regulate or control the personal spiritual relations which exist between man and his Maker. What should be the attitude of the Christian toward his government under these circumstances?

“God is supreme, and His requirements are paramount to all others. To Him the Christian owes unswerving allegiance. He cannot surrender this allegiance at the command of any human master. And when the laws of his government require that he should violate the laws of God, he has no alternative, but must obey God rather than men. Above any fear he may have of man, who is able to destroy his body, he is to fear the great God of heaven, who is able to destroy both soul and body. See Matthew 10:28.

“The attitude of the Christian should always be that of loyalty to his government as long as this does not conflict with his duty to God. How shall he manifest his loyalty when the laws of his government conflict with the requirements of God? He must obey his God, at whatever cost, but he may at the same time put forth consistent Christian effort to enlighten the lawmakers as to the principles involved. He may seek to have the law repealed. He may do this by personal effort, and in union with others, in such ways as it is lawful to seek relief.

“Never can the Christian resort to personal violence in the accomplishment of his ends. He will not engage in private brawl, nor will he be found inciting rebellion or riot. Rather than this, he must suffer meekly the penalty of the law, however unjust, leaving to God the vindication of his cause. By this course of conduct, and in this spirit working to redress the wrong, the Christian is giving the highest proof of his loyalty to

government. He is standing for fundamental principles; and in seeking to induce his government to confine its activities to that sphere to which God has justly limited its authority, he is rendering to it the highest possible service.

NOTABLE BIBLE EXAMPLES

“For this undeviating stand for right and principle, the Christian has authority in notable examples given in the sacred writings. When Daniel was required, on pain of death, to obey the law of Medo-Persia contrary to the express command of God, he resolutely refused and when he was cast into the den of lions, God wrought for him a wonderful deliverance, thus vindicating him in the noble stand he had taken. See Daniel 6.

“A similar experience came to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. This king erected on the plain of Dura a great golden image, and assembled to its dedication the chief men of his extensive empire. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego repaired to the plain of Dura with the others. With the others they stood in the presence of the golden image. Thus far they were willing to obey the law of Nebuchadnezzar. But when the command was given to bow down and worship the golden image, these three men refused to obey the royal edict. They knew it was a direct violation of the law of God. In the words of the Saviour, they feared not him who was able to destroy their bodies, but rather the One who was able to destroy both soul and body. Because of their stand, they were cast into the burning fiery furnace, but God vindicated their course by giving to them a miraculous deliverance. God declared that Nebuchadnezzar was His ‘servant,’ to execute His judgments upon the nations. See Jeremiah 25:9. But when this servant of God exceeded his proper authority,

and sought to legislate in things pertaining alone to God's jurisdiction, his folly was rebuked and his pride humbled.

“Daniel and the three worthies surely showed greater loyalty to the governments under which they lived than did their accusers. Darius and Nebuchadnezzar overstepped the bounds set for their authority by Omnipotence. By their acts they took a course which would inevitably lead to national ruin and invite the judgments of Heaven. In resisting these unjust measures the servants of God sought to save their governments from this dire calamity. Surely they manifested a loyalty to God and a loyalty to their governments in striking contrast to the conduct of those who in their lofty claims to patriotism were willing to put to death men with whom there could be found no fault except in the allegiance which they gave to their God. See Dan. 6:5.

“Government is never the gainer in the execution of a law that is manifestly unjust....Conscientious men are not the enemies, but the friends, of any government but a tyranny. They are its strength, and not its weakness. Daniel, in Babylon, praying, contrary to the law, was the true friend and supporter of the government; while those who, in their pretended zeal for the law and the constitution, would strike down the good man, were its real enemies. It is only when government transcends its sphere that it comes in conflict with the consciences of men.’ James H. Fairchild, *Moral Science*, p. 179.

OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN

“Nor are such instances confined alone to the old testament scriptures. The apostle Peter and his companions were brought into similar straits. Commanded by ruling Jewish authorities not to teach nor preach in the name of Jesus, the

apostles answered, 'We ought to obey God rather than men.' *Acts 5:29*. God showed His approval by the mighty power of His Spirit which attended their labors.

"Of all men, the Christian should be free from just offense. He should be quiet, orderly, honest, neighborly, law abiding. Every relation in life should be regulated by sincere devotion to God and to his fellow men. He should love God supremely and his neighbor as himself. Love to God and love to man—upon these two great principles hang all the law and the prophets." *The Coming Crisis*, Chapter 5, page 36-41, by Francis Wilcox.

The distinction between the supreme authority of the word of God and the authority that God has given to civil government is clearly seen in these quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy:

"The principles contained in this celebrated Protest... constitute the very essence of Protestantism. Now this Protest opposes two abuses of man in matters of faith: the first is the intrusion of the civil magistrate, and the second the arbitrary authority of the church. Instead of these abuses, Protestantism sets the power of conscience above the magistrate, and the authority of the word of God above the visible church. In the first place, it rejects the civil power in divine things, and says with the prophets and apostles, 'We must obey God rather than man.'

"In presence of the crown of Charles the Fifth, it uplifts the crown of Jesus Christ. But it goes farther: it lays down the principle that all human teaching should be subordinate to the oracles of God.' *D'Aubigne*, b. 13, ch. 6.

"The protesters had moreover affirmed their right to utter freely their convictions of truth. They would not only believe

and obey, but teach what the word of God presents, and they denied the right of priest or magistrate to interfere. The Protest of Spires was a solemn witness against religious intolerance, and an assertion of the right of all men to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences." GC 203-204.

"The banner of truth and religious liberty held aloft by the founders of the gospel church and by God's witnesses during the centuries that have passed since then, has, in this last conflict, been committed to our hands. The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of His word. We are to receive this word as supreme authority. We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. God's word must be recognized as above all human legislation. A 'Thus saith the Lord' is not to be set aside for a 'Thus saith the church' or a 'Thus saith the state.' The crown of Christ is to be lifted above the diadems of earthly potentates.

"We are not required to defy authorities. Our words, whether spoken or written, should be carefully considered, lest we place ourselves on record as uttering that which would make us appear antagonistic to law and order. We are not to say or do anything that would unnecessarily close up our way. We are to go forward in Christ's name, advocating the truths committed to us. If we are forbidden by men to do this work, then we may say, as did the apostles, 'Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.'" AA 68-69.

“Pointing to the inscription on the coin, Jesus said, ‘Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.’...

“Christ’s reply was no evasion, but a candid answer to the question. Holding in His hand the Roman coin, upon which were stamped the name and image of Caesar, He declared that since they were living under the protection of the Roman power, they should render to that power the support it claimed, so long as this did not conflict with a higher duty. But while peaceably subject to the laws of the land, they should at all times give their first allegiance to God.” DA 602.



CHAPTER 7



The Loud Cry Develops

The loud-cry message will develop and extend under the convicting power of the latter rain of the Holy Spirit. The opposing arguments, based as they are on tradition, culture and false teaching, will be fully exposed by the word and Spirit of God. With ever increasing momentum the message will spread and its clarity and power will demand and command the attention of the people. The proponents of the Sunday law will become enraged at the message and messengers of the loud cry movement and this will lead to increasing aggression against the truth.

“As the controversy extends into new fields and the minds of the people are called to God's downtrodden law, Satan is astir. The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it. The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light lest it should shine upon their flocks. By every means at their command they will endeavor to suppress the discussion of these vital questions. The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and, in this work, papists and Protestants unite. As the movement

for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers. They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith. But their steadfast answer is: 'Show us from the word of God our error'—the same plea that was made by Luther under similar circumstances. Those who are arraigned before the courts make a strong vindication of the truth, and some who hear them are led to take their stand to keep all the commandments of God. Thus light will be brought before thousands who otherwise would know nothing of these truths.

"Conscientious obedience to the word of God will be treated as rebellion. Blinded by Satan, the parent will exercise harshness and severity toward the believing child; the master or mistress will oppress the commandment-keeping servant. Affection will be alienated; children will be disinherited and driven from home. The words of Paul will be literally fulfilled: 'All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.' 2 Timothy 3:12. As the defenders of truth refuse to honor the Sunday-sabbath, some of them will be thrust into prison, some will be exiled, some will be treated as slaves. To human wisdom all this now seems impossible; but as the restraining Spirit of God shall be withdrawn from men, and they shall be under the control of Satan, who hates the divine precepts, there will be strange developments. The heart can be very cruel when God's fear and love are removed." GC 607-608.

The previous two paragraphs show clearly that the persecutory pressure mounts progressively as the loud cry develops! It starts in earnest when the Sunday law is invoked, "called in," i.e. directed against Sabbath keepers for the first time. When threatened with fines and imprisonment, Sabbath keepers will use Sundays for

missionary work to further proclaim the truth, while continuing to keep God's seventh day Sabbath holy! By using Sundays for missionary work the loud cry messengers will expose the futility of invoking the Sunday law against them. Consider this instruction from Testimonies Volume 9:

"Dear Brother: I will try to answer your question as to what you should do in the case of Sunday laws being enforced.

"The light given me by the Lord at a time when we were expecting just such a crisis as you seem to be approaching, was that when the people were moved by a power from beneath to enforce Sunday observance, Seventh-day Adventists were to show their wisdom by refraining from their ordinary work on that day, devoting it to missionary effort.

"To defy the Sunday laws will but strengthen in their persecution the religious zealots who are seeking to enforce them. Give them no occasion to call you lawbreakers. If they are left to rein up men who fear neither God nor man, the reining up will soon lose its novelty for them, and they will see that it is not consistent nor convenient for them to be strict in regard to the observance of Sunday. Keep right on with your missionary work, with your Bibles in your hands, and the enemy will see that he has worsted his own cause. One does not receive the mark of the beast because he shows that he realizes the wisdom of keeping the peace by refraining from work that gives offense, doing at the same time a work of the highest importance.

"When we devote Sunday to missionary work, the whip will be taken out of the hands of the arbitrary zealots who would be well pleased to humiliate Seventh-day Adventists. When

they see that we employ ourselves on Sunday in visiting the people and opening the Scriptures to them, they will know that it is useless for them to try to hinder our work by making Sunday laws.

“Sunday can be used for carrying forward various lines of work that will accomplish much for the Lord. On this day open-air meetings and cottage meetings can be held. House-to-house work can be done. Those who write can devote this day to writing their articles. Whenever it is possible, let religious services be held on Sunday. Make these meetings intensely interesting. Sing genuine revival hymns, and speak with power and assurance of the Saviour’s love. Speak on temperance and on true religious experience. You will thus learn much about how to work, and will reach many souls.”
9T 232-233.

The civil and religious authorities will try to bribe the people of God into giving up their faith. But the remnant-elect will remain faithful and loyal to God, His Son and His law!

The time will come when the fines and imprisonments will be directed against keeping the seventh day Sabbath. It will be declared that since keeping the seventh day means refusal to honor the Sunday sabbath, seventh day Sabbath keeping should be penalized. When brought before the courts, the loyal Sabbath keepers will in most cases pay the fines and continue to preach the message. As a matter of fact the court testimonies of loyal Sabbath keepers will be a means of witnessing to many and winning some to the truth.

“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.” 2 Corinthians 13:8.

The persecutory pressure during the early and middle periods of the loud cry will, in fact, facilitate the spread of the message in more ways than one. **Firstly** the persecution will catapult the people of God and the message of God into the front line of the national and international news. **Secondly** the open court cases will allow the highest legal minds to hear the truth. **Thirdly**, when persecuted in one area the people of God will flee to other areas. All of these developments will indeed fulfill 2 Corinthians 13:8!

As the loud cry develops, thousands of God's true people in Babylon will accept the truth under latter rain Holy Spirit conviction. In so doing they will leave the fallen religious organizations and join the ranks of God's true people. Hence will be fulfilled a number of scripture texts:

“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.” John 10:16.

“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” Revelation 13:8.

“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” Revelation 18:4.

“The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost. As the ‘former rain’ was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the ‘latter rain’ will be given at its close for the ripening of the harvest. ‘Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as

the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.' Hosea 6:3. 'Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain.' Joel 2:23. 'In the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh.' 'And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' Acts 2:17, 21.

"The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are 'the times of refreshing' to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: 'Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus.' Acts 3:19, 20.

"Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.

"The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by

missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side." GC 611-612.

THE FINAL TWO LEVELS OF PERSECUTION

The failure of all the lesser measures to silence God's people will induce the authorities to legislate two final measures of extreme severity. Firstly will come the decree forbidding, to buy or sell, those who refuse to honor Sunday and renounce the seventh day Sabbath.

"And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."
Revelation 13:17.

This "**buy and sell**" decree will in fact be a starvation sentence upon God's people abandoning them to life threatening poverty and terrible socio economic dislocation.

Eventually the death penalty will be attached to the Sunday law thereby **threatening** God's people with execution.

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' Often the follower of Christ is brought where he cannot serve God and carry forward his worldly enterprises. Perhaps it appears that obedience to some plain requirement of God will cut off his means of support. Satan would make him

believe that he must sacrifice his conscientious convictions. But the only thing in our world upon which we can rely is the word of God. 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.' Matt. 6:33. Even in this life it is not for our good to depart from the will of our Father in heaven. 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." DA 121-122.

"As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbath keepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.

"In this time of persecution the faith of the Lord's servants will be tried. They have faithfully given the warning, looking to God and to His word alone. God's Spirit, moving upon their

hearts, has constrained them to speak. Stimulated with holy zeal, and with the divine impulse strong upon them, they entered upon the performance of their duties without coldly calculating the consequences of speaking to the people the word which the Lord had given them. They have not consulted their temporal interests, nor sought to preserve their reputation or their lives. Yet when the storm of opposition and reproach bursts upon them, some, overwhelmed with consternation, will be ready to exclaim: 'Had we foreseen the consequences of our words, we would have held our peace.' They are hedged in with difficulties. Satan assails them with fierce temptations. The work which they have undertaken seems far beyond their ability to accomplish. They are threatened with destruction. The enthusiasm which animated them is gone; yet they cannot turn back. Then, feeling their utter helplessness, they flee to the Mighty One for strength. They remember that the words which they have spoken were not theirs, but His who bade them give the warning. God put the truth into their hearts, and they could not forbear to proclaim it.

"The same trials have been experienced by men of God in ages past. Wycliffe, Huss, Luther, Tyndale, Baxter, Wesley, urged that all doctrines be brought to the test of the Bible and declared that they would renounce everything which it condemned. Against these men persecution raged with relentless fury; yet they ceased not to declare the truth. Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God's people at that time. Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried. The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to publish it? He commands His servants to

present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls. Christ's ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty and leave results with God.

“As the opposition rises to a fiercer height, the servants of God are again perplexed; for it seems to them that they have brought the crisis. But conscience and the word of God assure them that their course is right; and although the trials continue, they are strengthened to bear them. The contest grows closer and sharper, but their faith and courage rise with the emergency. Their testimony is:

‘We dare not tamper with God’s word, dividing His holy law; calling one portion essential and another nonessential, to gain the favor of the world. The Lord whom we serve is able to deliver us. Christ has conquered the powers of earth; and shall we be afraid of a world already conquered?’

“Persecution in its varied forms is the development of a principle which will exist as long as Satan exists and Christianity has vital power. No man can serve God without enlisting against himself the opposition of the hosts of darkness. Evil angels will assail him, alarmed that his influence is taking the prey from their hands. Evil men, rebuked by his example, will unite with them in seeking to separate him from God by alluring temptations. When these do not succeed, then a compelling power is employed to force the conscience.

“But so long as Jesus remains man’s intercessor in the sanctuary above, the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit is felt by rulers and people. It still controls to some extent the laws of the land. Were it not for these laws, the condition of the world would be much worse than it now is. While many of our rulers are active agents of Satan, God also has His

agents among the leading men of the nation. The enemy moves upon his servants to propose measures that would greatly impede the work of God; but statesmen who fear the Lord are influenced by holy angels to oppose such propositions with unanswerable arguments. Thus a few men will hold in check a powerful current of evil. The opposition of the enemies of truth will be restrained that the third angel's message may do its work. When the final warning shall be given, it will arrest the attention of these leading men through whom the Lord is now working, and some of them will accept it, and will stand with the people of God through the time of trouble.

"The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel's message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. The advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first angel's message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel." GC 608-611.



CHAPTER 8



The Final Shaking

During the loud cry period the pressure put on God's people will progressively increase in severity as time passes. Initially the opposition to God's seventh day Sabbath will be in the form of argument, scorn, ridicule, which, though unpleasant, will be nothing more than is expected when anyone takes an unpopular stand. But when the authorities realize the power attending the message and the fixed purpose of God's people in standing for and proclaiming the Sabbath message, they will increase the persecutory pressure step by step until ultimately the "buy and sell decree" and the death penalty will be attached to the Sunday laws.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE SHAKING (HAGGAI 2:6-7; HEBREWS 12:25-28)

In any era of God's work there are always two shakings. The first is caused by a preparatory message from God, the second is caused by persecutory pressure. And only those who allow the message to prepare them are able to endure the persecution without apostatizing.

THE PREPARATORY MESSAGE

The message sent to prepare God's people for the final crisis is the counsel of the Faithful and True Witness to the church of the Laodiceans recorded in Revelation chapter three, verses 14 to 22. The Jones-Waggoner message of righteousness by faith (1888-1895) was, and is, essentially the message of Jesus to the church of the Laodiceans spelled out in full gospel clarity.

Those who receive the message of Jesus to Laodicea by receiving the full light of the message of righteousness by faith and the advancing light of God's true character (which is the true gospel) will be prepared for the final crisis. The majority of God's professed believers in the third angel's message have risen up in opposition to the message and this is the basis of the **first** or **Laodicean** shaking which started in the 1850's, became intense in the 1888-1901 period, and continues today with serious consequences both at the organizational and individual levels.

THE FIRST OR LAODICEAN SHAKING

This Laodicean shaking is described in *Early Writings*, pages 269-271:

"I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them.

“Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and thus they be led to distrust God and murmur against Him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels of God had charge over His people, and as the poisonous atmosphere of evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the heavenly angels were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness.

“As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them.

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people.

“I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely

disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified." EW 269-270.

THE FINAL SHAKING

The **final** shaking will be brought on by the progressive persecutory pressures of the **mark of the beast** crisis. It is described in *The Great Controversy*, page 608:

"As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them." GC 608.

THE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS OF THE TWO SHAKINGS

Those who truly receive and experience the straight testimony of Jesus to the Laodiceans which is the full message of the true gospel and character of God will be delivered from lukewarmness and will grow to the stage of growth called the **ear** (Mark 4:26-29). They will receive the latter rain, give the loud cry, and be ripened by that same latter rain to the

stage of growth called the **full corn in the ear**. These are also represented as the wise virgins (Matthew 25:1-10), and the good-soil hearers (Matthew 13:23).

Those who do not allow the straight testimony to sanctify them and cause them to reach the stage of the **ear** will not receive the latter rain **but will be self-deceived**. These foolish virgins will co-mingle with the wise and their true colors will not be exposed until the more extreme pressures of the Sunday law system be implemented!

Here now is a description of the perilous condition of foolish virgins during the loud cry:

“Unless those who can help in _____ are aroused to a sense of their duty, they will not recognize the work of God when the loud cry of the third angel shall be heard. When light goes forth to lighten the earth, instead of coming up to the help of the Lord, they will want to bind about His work to meet their narrow ideas. Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness.” TM 300.

TERRIBLE SHAKING DURING THE LOUD CRY

The final shaking will be a terrible one indeed. Not only will it shake out long standing members of the Seventh-day Adventist faith but also some apparent converts from Babylon who will have joined the loud cry movement during the early excitement. The pressure of the final shaking will be both mental and physical. Every conceivable deception will be progressively put into operation while at the same time the persecutory pressure will be mounting with progressive intensity.

“The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. There will be gods many and lords many. Every wind of doctrine will be blowing. Those who have rendered supreme homage to ‘science falsely so called’ will not be the leaders then. Those who have trusted to intellect, genius, or talent will not then stand at the head of rank and file. They did not keep pace with the light. Those who have proved themselves unfaithful will not then be entrusted with the flock. In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them. The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal. They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you. But it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed. In the day time we look toward heaven but do not see the stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them. In the night we behold their genuine luster.

“The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat. All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness.

“When trees without fruit are cut down as cumberers of the ground, when multitudes of false brethren are distinguished from the true, then the hidden ones will be revealed to view, and with hosannas range under the banner of Christ. Those who have been timid and self-distrustful will declare themselves openly for Christ and His truth. The most weak and hesitating in the church will be as David—willing to do and dare. The deeper the night for God's people, the more brilliant the stars. Satan will sorely harass the faithful; but, in the name of Jesus, they will come off more than conquerors. Then will the church of Christ appear ‘fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.’ 5T 80-82.

FINAL ADMONITION AND APPEAL

“Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme. The church may appear as about to fall,

but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place. None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths. We must be divested of our self-righteousness and arrayed in the righteousness of Christ.” 2SM 380.

“Already the judgments of God are abroad in the land, as seen in storms, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in peril by land and by sea. The great I AM is speaking to those who make void His law. When God’s wrath is poured out upon the earth, who will then be able to stand? Now is the time for God’s people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. The nation will be on the side of the great rebel leader....

“The Captain of our salvation will strengthen His people for the conflict in which they must engage. How often when Satan has brought all his forces to bear against the followers of Christ, and death stares them in the face, have earnest prayers put up in faith brought the Captain of the Lord’s host upon the field of action and turned the tide of battle and delivered the oppressed.

“Now is the time when we should closely connect with God, that we may be hid when the fierceness of His wrath is poured upon the sons of men. We have wandered away from the old landmarks. Let us return. If the Lord be God, serve Him; if Baal, serve him. Which side will you be on?” 5T 137.



CHAPTER 9



The Seal of the Living God

The final sealing is brought to view in Revelation 7:1-4. The living righteous will receive this final seal of God **prior** to the close of probation (ISM 66). And in order to receive this final seal of the living God they must successfully endure the mark of the beast crisis. The final seal means the full reproduction of God's character of righteousness in the believer's life by his abiding in Christ and reaching the growth stage called the **full corn in the ear** (Mark 4:26-29). The seventh day Sabbath will be the external manifestation of this apocalyptic seal of God.

"The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided...[Rev. 13:11-17 quoted.]...

"This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who proved their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth

of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast. Letter 11, 1890." 7BC 976.

"The ten virgins are watching in the evening of this earth's history. All claim to be Christians. All have a call, a name, a lamp, and all profess to be doing God's service. All apparently wait for Christ's appearing. But five are unready. Five will be found surprised, dismayed, outside the banquet hall." COL 412.

The latter rain will ripen God's people from the **ear** to the **full corn in the ear** and this ripening process will include their successful endurance of the mark of the beast persecutory pressure right up to when the death penalty is attached to the Sunday laws! The living saints will be tried severely both by the persecutory pressure and by the peculiar circumstances which will then obtain as the closure of probation approaches.

"In this time of persecution the faith of the Lord's servants will be tried. They have faithfully given the warning, looking to God and to His word alone. God's Spirit, moving upon their hearts, has constrained them to speak. Stimulated with holy zeal, and with the divine impulse strong upon them, they entered upon the performance of their duties without coldly calculating the consequences of speaking to the people the word which the Lord had given them. They have not consulted their temporal interests, nor sought to preserve their reputation or their lives. Yet when the storm of opposition and reproach bursts upon them, some, overwhelmed with consternation, will be ready to exclaim: 'Had we foreseen the consequences of our words, we would have held our peace.' They are hedged in with difficulties. Satan assails them with fierce temptations. The work which they have undertaken seems far beyond their ability to accomplish.

They are threatened with destruction. The enthusiasm which animated them is gone; yet they cannot turn back. Then, feeling their utter helplessness, they flee to the Mighty One for strength. They remember that the words which they have spoken were not theirs, but His who bade them give the warning. God put the truth into their hearts, and they could not forbear to proclaim it." GC 608-609.

The above passage describes the ending of the loud cry period. The latter rain will have slowed down and Satan will be throwing his most fierce temptations along with intense spiritual and mental stress and strain upon the souls of God's people.

But through all this severely intense spiritual and mental strain the people of God will be ripened to the **full corn in the ear**, Christian character perfection! When they reach that stage of growth they will be sealed and thereafter probation will close!

"Courage, fortitude, faith, and implicit trust in God's power to save do not come in a moment. These heavenly graces are acquired by the experience of years. By a life of holy endeavor and firm adherence to the right the children of God were sealing their destiny. Beset with temptations without number, they knew they must resist firmly or be conquered. They felt that they had a great work to do, and at any hour they might be called to lay off their armor; and should they come to the close of life with their work undone, it would be an eternal loss. They eagerly accepted the light from heaven, as did the first disciples from the lips of Jesus. When those early Christians were exiled to mountains and deserts, when left in dungeons to die with hunger, cold, and torture, when martyrdom seemed the only way out of their distress, they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ, who was crucified for them. Their worthy

example will be a comfort and encouragement to the people of God who will be brought into the time of trouble such as never was.

“Not all who profess to keep the Sabbath will be sealed. There are many even among those who teach the truth to others who will not receive the seal of God in their foreheads. They had the light of truth, they knew their Master’s will, they understood every point of our faith, but they had not corresponding works. These who were so familiar with prophecy and the treasures of divine wisdom should have acted their faith. They should have commanded their households after them, that by a well-ordered family they might present to the world the influence of the truth upon the human heart.

“By their lack of devotion and piety, and their failure to reach a high religious standard, they make other souls contented with their position. Men of finite judgment cannot see that in patterning after these men who have so often opened to them the treasures of God’s word, they will surely endanger their souls. Jesus is the only true pattern. Everyone must now search the Bible for himself upon his knees before God, with the humble, teachable heart of a child, if he would know what the Lord requires of him. However high any minister may have stood in the favor of God, if he neglects to follow out the light given him of God, if he refuses to be taught as a little child, he will go into darkness and satanic delusions and will lead others in the same path.

“Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.

“We are too easily satisfied with our attainments. We feel rich and increased with goods and know not that we are ‘wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.’ Now is the time to heed the admonition of the True Witness: ‘I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.’

“In this life we must meet fiery trials and make costly sacrifices, but the peace of Christ is the reward. There has been so little self-denial, so little suffering for Christ’s sake, that the cross is almost entirely forgotten. We must be partakers with Christ of His sufferings if we would sit down in triumph with Him on His throne. So long as we choose the easy path of self-indulgence and are frightened at self-denial, our faith will never become firm, and we cannot know the peace of Jesus nor the joy that comes through conscious victory. The most exalted of the redeemed host that stand before the throne of God and the Lamb, clad in white, know the conflict of overcoming, for they have come up through great tribulation. Those who have yielded to circumstances rather than engage in this conflict will not know how to stand in that day when anguish will be upon every soul, when, though Noah, Job, and Daniel were in the land, they could save neither son nor daughter, for everyone must deliver his soul by his own righteousness.

“No one need say that his case is hopeless, that he cannot live the life of a Christian. Ample provision is made by the death of Christ for every soul. Jesus is our ever-present help in time of need. Only call upon Him in faith, and He has promised to hear and answer your petitions.

“Oh, for a living, active faith! We need it; we must have it, or we shall faint and fail in the day of trial. The darkness that will then rest upon our path must not discourage us or drive us to despair. It is the veil with which God covers His glory when He comes to impart rich blessings. We should know this by our past experience. In that day when God has a controversy with His people this experience will be a source of comfort and hope.

“It is now that we must keep ourselves and our children unspotted from the world. It is now that we must wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is now that we must overcome pride, passion, and spiritual slothfulness. It is now that we must awake and make determined effort for symmetry of character. ‘Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.’ We are in a most trying position, waiting, watching for our Lord’s appearing. The world is in darkness. ‘But ye, brethren,’ says Paul, ‘are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.’ It is ever God’s purpose to bring light out of darkness, joy out of sorrow, and rest out of weariness for the waiting, longing soul.

“What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.

“Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious,

world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven. Go forward, my brethren and sisters. I can only write briefly upon these points at this time, merely calling your attention to the necessity of preparation. Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour." 5T 213-216.

PURIFIED EVEN AS JESUS IS PURE (1 JOHN 3:1-3)

"We should study more earnestly the character of our Saviour. We should imitate the lovely Pattern that God has given us. We should dwell upon the matchless charms of Jesus until there will be nothing satisfying in this perishing world. We should desire to reflect his image in kindness, in courtesy, in gentleness, and love, then 'when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.' In a little while every one who is a child of God will have his seal placed upon him. O that it may be placed upon our foreheads! Who can endure the thought of being passed by when the angel goes forth to seal the servants of God in their foreheads?" RH, May 28, 1889.

"As wax takes the impression of the seal, so the soul is to take the impression of the Spirit of God and retain the image of Christ." ST, January 2, 1907.

LATTER RAIN RIPENING

During the loud cry period the people of God will be ripened from the stage of growth called the **ear** to that which is called the **full**

corn in the ear (Mark 4:26-29). This advanced ripening growth will include the advanced testing of the mark of the beast persecutory pressure. The “**full corn in the ear**” means that the believers are settled into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved (MS 173, 1902).

“The latter rain, ripening earth's harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of Man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection.

“There is to be ‘first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.’ There must be a constant development of Christian virtue, a constant advancement in Christian experience. This we should seek with intensity of desire, that we may adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour.

“At no point in our experience can we dispense with the assistance of that which enables us to make the first start. The blessings received under the former rain are needful to us to the end. Yet these alone will not suffice. While we cherish the blessing of the early rain, we must not, on the other hand, lose sight of the fact that without the latter rain, to fill out the ears and ripen the grain, the harvest will not be ready for the sickle, and the labor of the sower will have been in vain. Divine grace is needed at the beginning, divine grace at every step of advance, and divine grace alone can complete the work. There is no place for us to rest in a careless attitude. We must never forget the warnings of Christ, ‘Watch unto prayer,’ ‘Watch and pray always.’ A connection with the divine agency every moment is essential to our progress. We may have had a measure of the Spirit of God, but by prayer and faith we are continually

to seek more of the Spirit. It will never do to cease our efforts. If we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in an attitude to receive both the former and the latter rain, we shall lose our souls, and the responsibility will lie at our own door." RH, March 2, 1897.

"At the transfiguration, Jesus was glorified by His Father. We hear Him say: 'Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in Him.' Thus before His betrayal and crucifixion He was strengthened for His last dreadful sufferings. As the members of the body of Christ approach the period of their last conflict, 'the time of Jacob's trouble,' they will grow up into Christ, and will partake largely of His spirit. As the third message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attend the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. Their faces will shine with the glory of that light which attends the third angel." 1T 353.

PURE AND SPOTLESS

"When this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ will be ready for His appearing. 'Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.' Malachi 3:4. Then the church which our Lord at His coming is to receive to Himself will be a 'glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.' Ephesians 5:27. Then she will look 'forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.' Song of Solomon 6:10." GC 425.

"We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service, while the high priest was making the atonement for Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by

repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people. In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so many professed Christians must be put away. There is earnest warfare before all who would subdue the evil tendencies that strive for the mastery. The work of preparation is an individual work. We are not saved in groups. The purity and devotion of one will not offset the want of these qualities in another. Though all nations are to pass in judgment before God, yet He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth. Everyone must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing." GC 489-490.

CLOSING ADMONITION

"The Lord has shown me the danger of letting our minds be filled with worldly thoughts and cares. I saw that some minds are led away from present truth and a love of the Holy Bible by reading other exciting books; others are filled with perplexity and care for what they shall eat, drink, and wear. Some are looking too far off for the coming of the Lord. Time has continued a few years longer than they expected; therefore they think it may continue a few years more, and in this way their minds are being led from present truth, out after the world. In these things I saw great danger; for if the mind is filled with other things, present truth is shut out, and there is no place in our foreheads for the seal of the living God. I saw that the time for Jesus to be in the most holy place was nearly finished and that time can last but a very

little longer. What leisure time we have should be spent in searching the Bible, which is to judge us in the last day.

“My dear brethren and sisters, let the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ be in your minds continually and let them crowd out worldly thoughts and cares. When you lie down and when you rise up, let them be your meditation. Live and act wholly in reference to the coming of the Son of man. The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure.” EW 58-59.



CHAPTER 10



The Investigative Judgment of the Living

One important component of the final warning message will be the 2300 day prophecy of Daniel 8:14 and the truths concerning the high priestly ministry of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary. The attention of the people will be called to the pre-advent judgment and the closing ministration of Christ in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary.

The 2300 days of Daniel 8:14 are 2300 years (using the day-year principle of Ezekiel 4:6) which started in 457 BC and ended in 1844, October 22nd. At the end of the 2300 years Christ our High Priest entered the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary to receive the kingdom (the marriage of the bridegroom in Matthew 25:1-10). In order to receive His kingdom Christ must perform two great functions. He must bring His final generation of living saints to perfection of character. He must also complete the pre-advent investigative judgment thereby showing who are really saved and therefore, entitled by His righteousness to receive eternal life.

THE PRE-ADVENT JUDGMENT

Since the judgment renders to every man his reward, and since the righteous receive their reward of immortality at Christ's second coming, it follows truthfully and logically that the professed righteous must be judged **before** the second advent in order to determine who are genuine.

“Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.” Romans 2:6-7.

“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Revelation 22:11-12.

“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.” 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” 2 Corinthians 5:10.

“In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.” Romans 2:16.

THE (PRE-ADVENT) INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE CLOSURE OF PROBATION

“When the work of investigation shall be ended, when the cases of those who in all ages have professed to be followers of Christ have been examined and decided, then, and not till then, probation will close, and the door of mercy will be shut. Thus in the one short sentence, ‘They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut,’ we are carried down through the Saviour’s final ministration, to the time when the great work for man’s salvation shall be completed.

“In the service of the earthly sanctuary, which, as we have seen, is a figure of the service in the heavenly, when the high priest on the Day of Atonement entered the most holy place, the ministration in the first apartment ceased. God commanded: ‘There shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he comes out.’ Leviticus 16:17. So when Christ entered the holy of holies to perform the closing work of the atonement, He ceased His ministration in the first apartment. But when the ministration in the first apartment ended, the ministration in the second apartment began. When in the typical service the high priest left the holy on the Day of Atonement, he went in before God to present the blood of the sin offering in behalf of all Israel who truly repented of their sins. So Christ had only completed one part of His work as our intercessor, to enter upon another portion of the work, and He still pleaded His blood before the Father in behalf of sinners.” GC 428.

THE JUDGMENT CALL MUST BE GIVEN TO ALL

The attention of the masses must be, and will be, directed to the closing ministration of Christ in the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary— the reason being that only those who by faith follow Jesus in His High

Priestly work will receive the benefits of His ministry.

“The condition of the unbelieving Jews illustrates the condition of the careless and unbelieving among professed Christians, who are willingly ignorant of the work of our merciful High Priest. In the typical service, when the high priest entered the most holy place, all Israel were required to gather about the sanctuary and in the most solemn manner humble their souls before God, that they might receive the pardon of their sins and not be cut off from the congregation. How much more essential in this antitypical Day of Atonement that we understand the work of our High Priest and know what duties are required of us.

“Men cannot with impunity reject the warning which God in mercy sends them. A message was sent from heaven to the world in Noah's day, and their salvation depended upon the manner in which they treated that message. Because they rejected the warning, the Spirit of God was withdrawn from the sinful race, and they perished in the waters of the Flood. In the time of Abraham, mercy ceased to plead with the guilty inhabitants of Sodom, and all but Lot with his wife and two daughters were consumed by the fire sent down from heaven. So in the days of Christ. The Son of God declared to the unbelieving Jews of that generation: ‘Your house is left unto you desolate.’ Matthew 23:38. Looking down to the last days, the same Infinite Power declares, concerning

those who 'received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved': 'For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.' 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12. As they reject the teachings of His word, God withdraws His Spirit and leaves them to the deceptions which they love." GC 430-431.

INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT OF THE LIVING

The investigative judgment must be completed before the general closure of human probation.

"When the work of investigation shall be ended, when the cases of those who in all ages have professed to be followers of Christ have been examined and decided, then, and not till then, probation will close, and the door of mercy will be shut. Thus in the one short sentence, 'They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut,' we are carried down through the Saviour's final ministration, to the time when the great work for man's salvation shall be completed." GC 428.

The loud cry servants will present the truth of the High Priestly ministry of Christ in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. The attention of the people will be called to the heavenly sanctuary, the 2300 day prophecy, and the closing ministration of Christ in the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary. This will have to be done because:

"It is those who by faith follow Jesus in the great work of the atonement who receive the benefits of His mediation in their behalf, while those who reject the light which brings to view this work of ministration are not benefited thereby.

The Jews who rejected the light given at Christ's first advent, and refused to believe on Him as the Saviour of the world, could not receive pardon through Him. When Jesus at His ascension entered by His own blood into the heavenly sanctuary to shed upon His disciples the blessings of His mediation, the Jews were left in total darkness to continue their useless sacrifices and offerings. The ministration of types and shadows had ceased. That door by which men had formerly found access to God was no longer open. The Jews had refused to seek Him in the only way whereby He could then be found, through the ministration in the sanctuary in heaven. Therefore they found no communion with God. To them the door was shut. They had no knowledge of Christ as the true sacrifice and the only mediator before God; hence they could not receive the benefits of His mediation.

"The condition of the unbelieving Jews illustrates the condition of the careless and unbelieving among professed Christians, who are willingly ignorant of the work of our merciful High Priest. In the typical service, when the high priest entered the most holy place, all Israel were required to gather about the sanctuary and in the most solemn manner humble their souls before God, that they might receive the pardon of their sins and not be cut off from the congregation. How much more essential in this antitypical Day of Atonement that we understand the work of our High Priest and know what duties are required of us." GC 430-431.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS KNOWLEDGE

"Those who would share the benefits of the Saviour's mediation should permit nothing to interfere with their duty to perfect holiness in the fear of God. The precious hours, instead of being given to pleasure, to display, or to gain

seeking, should be devoted to an earnest, prayerful study of the word of truth. The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days.

“All who have received the light upon these subjects are to bear testimony of the great truths which God has committed to them. The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ's work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin. It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects and be able to give an answer to everyone that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them.

“The intercession of Christ in man's behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross. By His death He began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to complete in heaven. We must by faith enter within the veil, ‘whither the forerunner is for us entered.’ Hebrews 6:20. There the light from the cross of Calvary is reflected. There we may gain a clearer insight into the mysteries of redemption. The salvation of man is accomplished at an infinite expense to heaven; the sacrifice

made is equal to the broadest demands of the broken law of God. Jesus has opened the way to the Father's throne, and through His mediation the sincere desire of all who come to Him in faith may be presented before God.

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.’ Proverbs 28:13. If those who hide and excuse their faults could see how Satan exults over them, how he taunts Christ and holy angels with their course, they would make haste to confess their sins and to put them away. Through defects in the character, Satan works to gain control of the whole mind, and he knows that if these defects are cherished, he will succeed. Therefore he is constantly seeking to deceive the followers of Christ with his fatal sophistry that it is impossible for them to overcome. But Jesus pleads in their behalf His wounded hands, His bruised body; and He declares to all who would follow Him: ‘My grace is sufficient for thee.’ 2 Corinthians 12:9. ‘Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.’ Matthew 11:29, 30. Let none, then, regard their defects as incurable. God will give faith and grace to overcome them.

“We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service, while the high priest was making the atonement for Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people. In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so many professed Christians must be put away. There is earnest warfare before all who would

subdue the evil tendencies that strive for the mastery. The work of preparation is an individual work. We are not saved in groups. The purity and devotion of one will not offset the want of these qualities in another. Though all nations are to pass in judgment before God, yet He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth. Everyone must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

“Solemn are the scenes connected with the closing work of the atonement. Momentous are the interests involved therein. The judgment is now passing in the sanctuary above. For many years this work has been in progress. Soon—none know how soon—it will pass to the cases of the living. In the awful presence of God our lives are to come up in review. At this time above all others it behooves every soul to heed the Saviour’s admonition: ‘Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.’ Mark 13:33. ‘If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.’ Revelation 3:3.” GC 488-490.

THE FINAL TEST AND THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT OF THE LIVING

We now come to the crucial question. What terrible test must the final generation of living saints successfully endure in order to pass their investigative judgment? The answer is: the mark of the beast crisis with its increasing persecutory pressure right up to the **threat** of death.

“The ten virgins are watching in the evening of this earth’s history. All claim to be Christians. All have a call, a name, a lamp, and all profess to be doing God’s service. All apparently wait for Christ’s appearing. But five are unready.

Five will be found surprised, dismayed, outside the banquet hall." COL 412.

"The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided....[Rev. 13:11-17 quoted.]

"This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who proved their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast (Letter 11, 1890)." 7BC 976.

Only those who endure this full persecutory package and are ripened to the "**full corn in the ear**" will be sealed. They will pass the judgment of the living. Their sins will be blotted out and their names retained in the book of life. Then Jesus ends His High Priestly ministration.



CHAPTER 11



The Close of Human Probation

THE END OF THE LOUD CRY

“At that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book.’ Daniel 12:1.

“When the third angel’s message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received ‘the latter rain,’ ‘the refreshing from the presence of the Lord,’ and they are prepared for the trying hour before them. Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received ‘the seal of the living God.’ Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands and with a loud voice says, ‘It is done;’ and all the angelic host

lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement: 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.' Revelation 22:11. Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The number of His subjects is made up; 'the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven,' is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords." GC 613-614.

"I was pointed down to the time when the third angel's message was closing. The power of God had rested upon His people; they had accomplished their work and were prepared for the trying hour before them. They had received the latter rain, or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and the living testimony had been revived. The last great warning had sounded everywhere, and it had stirred up and enraged the inhabitants of the earth who would not receive the message.

"I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed. Then I saw Jesus, who had been ministering before the ark containing the ten commandments, throw down the censer. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, 'It is done.' And all the angelic host laid off their crowns as Jesus made the solemn declaration, 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.'" EW 279-280.

THE UNKNOWN HOUR

The close of human probation will be an event of the most momentous significance to all mankind. Then the fate of every human being will have been decided for eternity either for eternal life or the second death. The doctrine of the closure of probation is an important truth not taught by most denominations and so it has become one of the unique doctrines of true Seventh-day Adventism. One critically important aspect of this doctrine is that when the close of human probation finally occurs **the inhabitants of this earth will know it not! Neither the righteous nor the wicked will know that probation has closed!**

“When God's presence was finally withdrawn from the Jewish nation, priests and people knew it not. Though under the control of Satan, and swayed by the most horrible and malignant passions, they still regarded themselves as the chosen of God. The ministration in the temple continued; sacrifices were offered upon its polluted altars, and daily the divine blessing was invoked upon a people guilty of the blood of God's dear Son and seeking to slay His ministers and apostles. So when the irrevocable decision of the sanctuary has been pronounced and the destiny of the world has been forever fixed, the inhabitants of the earth will know it not. The forms of religion will be continued by a people from whom the Spirit of God has been finally withdrawn; and the satanic zeal with which the prince of evil will inspire them for the accomplishment of his malignant designs, will bear the semblance of zeal for God.” GC 615.

“When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death. Probation is ended a short time before the appearing of

the Lord in the clouds of heaven. Christ in the Revelation, looking forward to that time, declares: 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.' Revelation 22:11, 12.

"The righteous and the wicked will still be living upon the earth in their mortal state—men will be planting and building, eating and drinking, all unconscious that the final, irrevocable decision has been pronounced in the sanctuary above. Before the Flood, after Noah entered the ark, God shut him in and shut the ungodly out; but for seven days the people, knowing not that their doom was fixed, continued their careless, pleasure-loving life and mocked the warnings of impending judgment. 'So,' says the Saviour, 'shall also the coming of the Son of man be.' Matthew 24:39. Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men.

"'Watch ye therefore:...lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping.' Mark 13:35,

36. Perilous is the condition of those who, growing weary of their watch, turn to the attractions of the world. While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain, while the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence, while the daughter of fashion is arranging her adornments—it may be in that hour the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence: 'Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.' Daniel 5:27." GC 490-491.

UNKNOWN TO SATAN AS WELL

Even during the time of Jacob's trouble Satan will not know that probation has closed.

"As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God's people in the time of trouble. And as he accused Jacob, he will urge his accusations against the people of God. He numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. He sees that holy angels are guarding them, and he infers that their sins have been pardoned; but he does not know that their cases have been decided in the sanctuary above." GC 618.

Time Of Probation's Closure Not Revealed

"God has not revealed to us the time when this message will close, or when probation will have an end. Those things that are revealed we shall accept for ourselves and for our children; but let us not seek to know that which has been kept secret in the councils of the Almighty..." 7BC 989.

The question may be asked: Will not the occurrence of the seven last plagues indicate that probation has closed? This is a very good question. The term "**seven last**" indicates that there will be plagues leading up to those seven last plagues in such a progressive continuum that there will be no discernable line of demarcation between earlier plagues and later plagues.

As the loud cry develops, Satan, through the agency of spiritualism, will perform many undeniable wonders. At the same time he will cause

disease, disaster and calamities of progressively increasing magnitude right up to and beyond the closure of probation. Therefore the seven last plagues will be on a line of continuum from earlier plagues.

“Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would—He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some in order to further his own designs, and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.

“While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast.

'The earth mourneth and fadeth away,' 'the haughty people...do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.' Isaiah 24:4, 5." GC 589-590.

PREPARE NOW

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book.’ When this time of trouble comes, every case is decided; there is no longer probation, no longer mercy for the impenitent. The seal of the living God is upon His people. 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.

May God help His people now, for what can they then do in such a fearful conflict without His assistance!" 5T 212-213.

CONCLUSION

After the close of probation there will only be two classes—those with the seal of the living God, the living saints, called the 144,000; and those with the mark of the beast, the overwhelming majority of earth’s population. The great time of trouble, including the time of Jacob’s trouble, will occur after the closure of probation. Dan. 12:1

God is Working His Purpose Out

Arthur C Ainger 1841-1919

BENSON: Millicent Kingham 1866-1894

1. God is wor - king his pur - pose out, as year suc - ceeds to year,
 2. From ut - most east to ut - most west, where e - ver feet have
 3. What can we do to work God's work, to pro - sper and in -
 4. March we forth in the strength of God, with the ban - ner of Christ un -
 5. All we can do is no - thing worth un - less God bless - es the deed;

God is wor - king his pur - pose out, as the time is draw - ing
 trod, by the mouth of ma - ny mess - eng - ers, goes forth the voice of
 cease the love of God in all man - kind, the reign of the Prince of
 furled, that the light of the glor - i - ous go - spel of truth may shine through -
 vain - ly we hope for the har - vest tide til God gives life to the

near; "Give near - er and near - er draws the time, the time that shall sure - ly be, when the
 God, ear to me, ye con - ti - nents, ye isles gi - ve ear to me, that the
 peace? What can we do to hasten the time, the time that shall sure - ly be, when the
 world; fight we the fight with sorrow and sin, to set their cap - tives free, that the
 seed; Yet near - er and near - er draws the time, the time that shall sure - ly be, when the

earth shall be filled with the glo - ry of God, as the wa - ters co - ver the sea.
 earth may be filled with the glo - ry of God, as the wa - ters co - ver the sea"
 earth shall be filled with the glo - ry of God, as the wa - ters co - ver the sea?
 earth may be filled with the glo - ry of God, as the wa - ters co - ver the sea.
 earth shall be filled with the glo - ry of God, as the wa - ters co - ver the sea.