

Before the Sunday Laws – These Must Occur

Introduction

Seventh-day Adventists are riveted on the issue of Sunday laws. Many assume incorrectly that the next major event that will herald the coming of Christ will be the passage of the Sunday laws.

- There are websites that Adventist laymen have developed, addressing this as urgent news tied to Revelation 13.
- They relate news items to the “mark of the beast,” which becomes a sensational issue!
- e.g.: <http://www.markofbeast.net/page3.htm>

Many SDAs get on the edge of their seats when:

- The Pope says something about the importance of the “Lord’s Day.”
- The Climate Change accords or news reports must be “tools” for religious laws, e.g., no work on Sunday means a less polluted atmosphere.
- European Sunday laws – thinking it must soon come to America.
- Evangelicals visiting the Pope, i.e., they’re reaching “across the gulf.”
- The number of Catholics in Congress and the Supreme Court – i.e., the stage is set for those laws.
- When the President of the United States makes a religious statement – we’re getting close.

But these have marginal Biblical significance. It is true that:

Religious restrictive laws are a distinct part of Daniel’s apocalyptic prophecy. In fact, Daniel states that they will herald the onset of earth’s last timing prophecy with persecution before Jesus comes.

- *“And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for **a time, times, and an half**; and when he shall have accomplished to **scatter the power of the holy people [persecuted]**, all these things shall be finished” (Daniel 12:7).*
- *“And from the time that the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and the **abomination that maketh desolate set up [a law]**, there shall be a thousand*

two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days” (Daniel 12:11-12).

Christians should be keenly aware that Sabbath laws are prophetically based and will herald the *“time of the end.”*

- **But** – there are many things that must occur **before** that “event” is launched.
- It is to this area that this study is addressed.

Peter eloquently addressed prophetic issues when he said:

- *“We also have the **prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts”*** (II Peter 1:19 – NIV).
- Though initially alluding to the first advent (1:10), his logic and entreaty soon moved to the Second Coming in chapter 3.

Before we review the things that **must occur before** the Sunday laws, there are two important fulfilled prophecies that need recognition!

We must understand two key papal sagas from Revelation 13. There are **two wounds** that are healed.

1. Wound of the *“head”* (vs 3)
2. Wound of the sea beast (vss 12, 14)

This *“head”* is understood, through Revelation 17, to be the number six head of a sequence of seven. That was Pope John Paul II. He was shot in 1981 by a Turkish assailant.

- By 1983 this wound was healed. That pope became the most widely seen person in human history. He also had the largest funeral known in human history.

The *“Beast”* Message:

- *“And, by the signs he [the earth beast] was permitted to perform on behalf of the beast [the sea beast], he deceived those who live on the earth. He told those who live on the earth to make an image to **the beast who had been wounded by the sword, but still lived”*** (Revelation 13:14 – NET).
- A beast represents a king or a kingdom in prophecy (cf. Daniel 7:23).
- This beast, it can be shown, is the papal antichrist. If it was wounded but still lives, when did that occur?

- The Italian government was formed formally in 1861. Its military action drew together vast areas of the country, including confiscation of all the Papal States (the papacy had controlled three million people).
- The final holdout was Rome. The last step was defeating the papal forces in 1870. For the first time in 1300 years, Rome became the capital of a European country.¹
- The ecclesiastical power of that Roman Church was **not harmed** nor was its amazing tentacles into governments around the world!

In 1870 the Catholic Church was then **only a church, not a church and state**. But – it was a powerful ecclesiastical power!

- When did that “wound” heal? Most Christians are aware that the Catholic Church regained a “nation” in 1929 through the Lateran Treaties. It was called the Vatican City State. Though only 108.6 acres, it was immediately an international country. It soon exchanged ambassadors and eventually became an NGO at the United Nations.
- That event legitimized Revelation 17’s prophecy of a harlot on a beast, which had to happen before the Sunday laws and the mark of the beast could occur.

Its power is now profound. Pope Francis, via Cardinal Peter Turkson, during the opening session of the World Economic Forum, January 2018, addressed over 3,000 of the **world’s political and business elite**. Subsequently, this pope addressed all the ambassadors who are stationed in Rome. Their link to the world is based on that international Vatican City State “country.”

Two major end-time prophecies have been fulfilled. Without that 1929 event, the end-time prophetic issues could not move forward.

Events that Precede the Sunday Laws (after 1929, for us in 2019 and beyond)

Event One – Preparation of saints to announce Christ’s coming

An amazing issue is raised in the parable of the ten virgins. At midnight, symbolically when truth reaches its darkest hour, a cry goes up (Matthew 25:6).

- “Behold the bridegroom cometh.”
- “Come out ... to meet Him.”

Who is/are the ones who cry “the time has come for the procession to begin”?

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capture_of_Rome

- It is clear that one of the great missions of the 144,000 will be to give earth's final call (intimated in E.G.W. 3T 266.2) and through unlikely leaders (3T 214.7), clearly presented in many prophecies, e.g., Daniel 8 (ram's horns).
- When the Sunday laws are enforced, a bold work begins.
- The Three angels' Messages then begin in earnest by a prepared group of individuals.

When did they "groom up" to announce that the time had come for the Bridegroom to make His debut?

- There are rich prophecies in Daniel and Revelation that suggest that the final time to prepare is the fall before the spring Sunday laws. It is a Feast of Trumpets issue!
- Part of that preparation requires a thorough knowledge of the unsealed book of Daniel (*ha-hazon*) (Revelation 10) and the seven churches' messages.

Event Two – The 144,000 must have an early rain experience before the Sunday laws.

A very important unique issue that is critical to understand end-time prophecy and to be effective witnesses relates to the work of the Spirit.

- "We may be sure that when the Holy Spirit is poured out [the latter rain], those who did not receive and appreciate the **early rain** will not see or understand the value of the **latter rain**."²
- In studying the Jewish theocracy, which was tied to their agrarian life, there were two annual rains that brought the harvest to maturity. The early rain began the growth of the barley and the wheat grain, the latter rain brought the wheat to its head, so it could be harvested (the barley ripened early in the spring).

Rain is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Joel, especially, talks about this. Clearly the 144,000 will be the forward troops to help finish the gospel work. They are symbolized by the spring barley harvest and the white horse of the first seal (Revelation 6:1-2).

- A group of people, the 144,000, are set aside (not sealed), **at the latest, in the fall of the year**, the time of the Early Rain. They are already "ripe" when the latter rain comes and the wheat is ready to harvest.
- Has that already begun? Is there a group of people who are under the deepest spiritual conviction, preparing to finish the gospel work? We cannot be sure – but it is possible that scattered throughout the world there are those who have unmitigated loyalty to Jesus Christ and are prepared to sacrifice everything for the last Christian cause!

² White, Ellen G.; *Gospel Workers*, p. 399.

The Bible makes clear that when those religious laws are passed (apparently first in the United States), that group of individuals are prepared to go out “*conquering and to conquer*” (announcing that the bridegroom comes) (Revelation 6:1-2; cf. Daniel 12:6-7, Revelation 11:3). Then the Latter Rain begins to fall.

What might be the spirit of those who are receiving that Early Rain experience? Will they have the “*fruits of the spirit*”? Will they talk about Jesus Christ easily?

1. They must clearly know the contents of that unsealed “*little open book*” of Revelation 10 to witness (Revelation 10-11). So they eat it – it becomes part of them.
2. They will clearly have the proper personal response to the challenges that Jesus gave to the seven churches in Revelation 2-3.
3. They will clearly have detailed insight into the Three Angels’ Messages of Revelation 14, which reveal God’s character of ***mercy and justice!***

God is waiting for a group of individuals who are spiritual, mentally equipped and under His power, ready to finish the work. Might you be one of those now getting ready?

Event Three – For laws to be made that restrict religious liberty, there must be a growing willingness to hurt true Christians, challenge their convictions and undermine their freedom to express them.

Recent examples in the United States:

1. A lady wouldn’t sell marriage license to a homosexual couple. This resulted in jail and, later, loss of her job.
2. A baker of cakes in Denver, Colorado, would not bake for a homosexual wedding. The courts closed his business. It went up to the Supreme Court. They reversed the State’s decisions. He reopened his business. The State again shut him down over a technicality in 2018.
3. A lady florist in Washington wouldn’t sell flowers for a homosexual wedding. Her business had to close.

Some of the judges and lawyers have ***real hatred*** toward Christian individuals. This was especially seen in Arizona against two young lady Christian artists who had to close down their wedding invitation business. The Supreme Court of that state: sexual rights take precedence over religious rights.

A study by the Family Research Council and Liberty Institute has shown that an anti-Christian faith sentiment is growing at ***breakneck speed***. Hostility against American

Christians ***has now become alarming***. There are hundreds of cases that are becoming legal issues each year.³

Event Four – Immorality

The Great Controversy⁴ notes that the ***declining moral state of society*** will be one of the causes for the Sunday laws.

It is most interesting that six years after the wounded “*beast*” was healed (1929) Cultural Marxism began to infiltrate the United States through Columbia University in New York. It originated in Frankfurt, Germany. This philosophy has since morphed America.

- The agenda was to undermine Christianity and promote sexual freedom among young people. University-trained (the base for the movement) children were educated to accept sexual liberation as culturally acceptable.
- There is a direct correlation between this movement and the explosive, agitated, anti-Christian spirit in America.

Political activism, violence, hate speech, judicial activism against Christian convictions, decreasing numbers of individuals claiming to be Christian and shattering of the dignity of sex, gender and marriage, all are needed to create laws that restrict religious liberty.

The hate, the unrest and the sexual perversions that pervade the world, especially in America, is the framework that will soon lead to a cry for a “cultural need” for religious laws to rectify societies degradation!

Mrs. White saw and noted: “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....

“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.”⁵

- The media and internet idolize fashion and nakedness.

³ <https://www.charismanews.com/us/41373-study-anti-christian-faith-sentiment-growing-at-breakneck-speed>

⁴ White, Ellen G.; *The Great Controversy*, p. 587.

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 556-557.

- It's almost competitive among those in Hollywood.

A state in society will turn citizens against these cultural trends!

Event Five – Ten Divisions – World Wonders – Ten Horned Beast (Daniel 7; Revelation 13, 17).

In 1942 the United States State Department, along with the Carnegie Institute's Carnegie Endowment for Peace, divided the world into ten divisions. This map was refined in 1973 by the Club of Rome. It became the geopolitical framework for the New World Order.

- That goal has never been changed and the jostling for a “united world” agenda is all based on those ten divisions – paralleling the beast with ten horns (Revelation 13 and 17). It is not ten divisions of Europe or the EU. The Bible refers to them as “*kings of the earth*” (Revelation 17:2) and the inhabitants of the earth.
- But – there is to be a “head” of those divisions.
- The Bible tells us how that will develop:
*“And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together **with the beast**. These are united in **yielding their power and authority to the beast**”* (Revelation 17:12-13 – NRS).
- That's it! The papal beast will become that world head.

We know where those ten divisions will be from many geopolitical maps. That beast, we know, is called the Holy See. When we go to Revelation 13, that “sea beast,” representing the Holy See and has crowns on its ten horns – the geopolitical order has then been made up!

Prophecy is waiting for a deeper coalition of those ten world regions to work together!

Then – a religious world power based upon a new moral order will emerge!

The Bible says that the pivotal issue will be the Sunday Sabbath.

Event Six – World Wonders

Both Pope John Paul II and Benedict XVI previously spoke out that the world needs a moral leader – both meaning, of course, the papal head! Pope Francis is neutralizing the current concern for the sex scandals by projecting guilt on anyone who criticizes the papacy or the church! “It is criticizing the church Christ established, whose head is a successor to the apostle Peter.”

- It cannot be minimized that world figures are meeting with him nearly weekly at the Vatican.
- Pope Francis' strong concern for global warming fits into the New World Order agenda! The Vatican was recently a major participant in the International Climate Conference in Poland in December of 2018.
- Pope Francis is the most followed world leader on Twitter.

The world is wondering. It will peak when the leaders of the world give the papacy world power. We are waiting and watching.

Event Seven – Growing interest in the Ten Commandments

A growing interest in or reference to the Ten Commandments must precede religious laws that support those commandments. They form a basis for moral behavior to most Christians.

- Over the past two decades there has been a growing number of legal cases against the display of the Ten Commandments, some even reaching the Supreme Court of the United States.⁶
- Monuments to the Ten Commandments have been removed, often via court orders and often under protest – from state capitols, parks, and even public schools in Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Alabama, Ohio, Mississippi, New Mexico, Maryland and Kentucky.

The Catholic Church has spoken out against this: “The Ten Commandments are too ‘religious’ [an excuse given by the secular world]. I’m wondering, what part of “Do not steal” is specifically religious? What culture, even a pagan culture, does not require and enforce respect for parents and elders? In what sense is the command “not to murder” a religious command? Do non-religious people generally have no problem with murder? Similar questions come to the fore about lying, adultery, coveting the spouse or property of others. At most times and most places in the world, there have been prohibitions against such things.” The Sabbath was not mentioned – but this is a focus on the Ten Commandments.

“Plato and Aristotle and other pagan philosophers embraced these basic moral values.”⁷

- The problem for atheists, Wiccans, the ACLU and others is that God is mentioned in those commandments. What would happen if there were events in America where there is no place to turn to except upward? To God?

⁶ <https://www.law.com/nationallawjournal/almID/900005424448/The-Ten-Commandments-at-the-Supreme-Court/?sIreturn=20181007190031>

⁷ <https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2016/09/24/the-ten-commandments-and-natural-law/>

- This growing focus is healthy, interesting and needed for prophecy to be fulfilled.

Those principles will be appealed to, with the Sabbath, as the way to resolve chaos.

Event Eight – Public desire for Religious Laws

God's People must understand that there are prophecies in Daniel 8, 11 and 12 that predict there will be a **religious law against the Sabbath**, which the antichrist (little horn, vile person and, later, called the king of the north) **will provoke (demand) to be passed.**

- Reasons include hatred of Sabbath keepers, His church and part of the Decalogue (Daniel 8).
- This is expanded by major resistance by the antichrist against God's covenant **and** against the work of evangelizing by God's people (Daniel 11).
- This resistance will finally lead to persecution of the saints, directly related to the Sabbath issue.

This law **against the Sabbath** is called, by Christ in Matthew 24, an "*abomination*" that will lead to "*desolation.*"

- Why is the Sabbath so important? It is the part of the Decalogue that notes God's (1) authority, (2) His covenant and (3) His law. The "*abomination*" is translated in the King James Version as "*transgression*" and in Hebrew is *be-pesha*.
- In those chapters a religious law is made that God hates and part of the Decalogue that He wrote is taken away (Daniel 11:31, 12:11)!

God's people, who help finished the work, must know beforehand that this is a Biblical issue and not simply from E. G. White!

- Now there is growing concern about what is happening to/in America.
- Soon there will be a call for laws to bring God back into the country.

Event Nine – Calamities that cause Helplessness

"It is on the law of God that the last great struggle of the controversy between Christ and His angels and Satan and his angels will come, and it will be decisive for all the world.... Men in responsible positions ... will point to calamities on land and sea – to the storms of wind, the floods, the earthquakes, the destruction by fire – as judgments indicating God's displeasure because Sunday is not sacredly observed. These

calamities will increase more and more, one disaster will follow close upon the heels of another; ... This falsehood is Satan's device that he may ensnare the unwary."⁸

This issue is tied to that Hebrew word *be-pesha* in Daniel 8.

- Calamities are one of the catalysts where people cry out to God and urge religious laws.
- No wonder Christ noted as a major issue of the "*time of sorrows*," wars and calamities would occur (Matthew 24:7-8), then he said, Go to Daniel for the rest of the story.

They are accelerating in intensity – cost. Soon will be helplessness.

Event Ten – Judicial Activism – to uphold illegal activity

For America to pass laws that would impede religious liberty, personal convictions and freedom to worship as one chooses necessitates **judicial activism** that undermines the Constitution.

- This has begun with judges making laws that only Congress should make.
- Share headlines. Low-level judges are blocking President Trump's declarations.
- The system has become corrupt. That opens the door for the Constitution to be destroyed.

It is getting worse and congress in not blocking it! This will lead, at some point, to the Protestants asking for religious laws in sympathy with Rome.

Event Eleven – Mob Riots

To see negativism and hatred against a segment of Christianity, there must be a growing tolerance and response to mob activity, and even violence without legal repercussions – including acceptance of unauthorized marches that block traffic, access to businesses and the privacy of others. This would callous minds against those who hold opposite views.

- Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.), in a well-coordinated attack on traditional, conservative Americans, have simultaneously called for Democratic supporters to engage in extreme intimidation of conservative Republicans and Trump Cabinet members, no matter where they are. They do not want conservatives to feel safe in public or even at their homes.

⁸ White, Ellen G.; *The Southern Watchman*, June 28, 1904 (cf. ChS 155).

- Hillary Clinton said, “We won’t become civil until we win back the House and/or the Senate.”⁹
- The Antifa in America and Yellow Jackets in France are examples.

Event Twelve – Economic Problems for the United States

Prophecy clearly shows a revengeful spirit against God’s loyalists! This leads to persecution and is revealed in Daniel, Revelation and Christ’s eschatological discourse in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. One reason for this will be the financial hardship that will come to America.

“The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven **will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God’s commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors.** It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease **until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced;** and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their **restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity.**”¹⁰

Recall Daniel’s prophecy in 11:45 (just before the antichrist, King of the North, ceases to exist):

“He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the riches of Egypt” (Daniel 11:43 – NRS) (Egypt symbolizes the wicked world).

The Vatican Bank has direct ties to the Bank of International Settlements, which is over all the world banks. This prophecy will soon be fulfilled.

We watch for the linking of the world’s riches with the Vatican in some detailed way! And – there is a cry for a restoration of financial stability, especially in the United States.

Event Thirteen – Powerful U.S.A. President

An extremely powerful world leader needs to arise in the United States – who not only wields power throughout the world (earth beast – Revelation 13) – but:

1. Who is very supportive of the papacy.
2. Who is eventually willing to impose death on those who reject the Sunday issue.

⁹ <https://tnvalleytalks.hoop.la/topic/mob-rule-always-precedes-civil-war-and-obama-has-emerged-as-the-chief-mobster>

¹⁰ White, Ellen G.; *The Great Controversy*, p. 590.

Who will that leader be? Is there anyone more powerful than Trump?

Event Fourteen – Satan Appears as an Angel of Light

“In the last days Satan will appear as an angel of light, with great power and heavenly glory, and claim to be the Lord of the whole earth. He will declare that the Sabbath has been changed from the seventh to the first day of the week; and as lord of the first day of the week he will present this spurious sabbath as a test of loyalty to him. Then will take place the final fulfillment of the Revelator's prophecy. [Revelation 13:4-18, quoted.]”¹¹

Event Fifteen – Unified Protestant Movement

The voice of the Protestant world in the United States must become unified in their asking for the Sunday laws.

- “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.”¹²
- A unified sympathetic tie with those two end-time powers must begin to be felt.
 - Evangelical leaders have visited Rome and find a unifying interest.
 - Protestants worked with the Obama administration to help welcome Pope Francis to the White House (2015).
 - Rick Warren, senior pastor of the mega-church Saddleback, Orange County, California, said after visiting the pope:
 - “He is our pope.”
 - “Christian denominations should unite under Rome.”¹³
- “Life after death” is emphasized more and more – the latest with President H. R. Bush. This is a unifying issue with most religions. What will they want? (1) World spiritual leader and (2) all get back to God.

Event Sixteen – Division within the Christian Community

The apostle Paul noted the horrific sins that would come into the church before the end (II Timothy 3:1-5).

¹¹ White, Ellen G.; *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, p. 282.

¹² White, Ellen G.; *The Great Controversy*, p. 588.

¹³ <https://www.nowtheendbegins.com/rick-warren-says-pope-francis-poses-christians-worldwide-videos/>

“The great issue so near at hand will weed out those whom God has not appointed, and he will have a pure, true, sanctified ministry prepared for the latter rain.”¹⁴

“A new life is proceeding from satanic agencies to work with a power we have not hitherto realized. And shall not a new power from above take possession of God’s people? – Letter 66, 1886.”¹⁵

There will be apostates, Christians in name only, and the converted in the church. When we approach that major point of Sunday enforcement, they will be sifted out. Thus, division and trouble within the church before then is expected (II Timothy 3:1-5).

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¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*