

This ministry is dedicated to a progressive understanding of truth apropos to the last generation to live on earth.

Welcome to *EndTime Issues...*

A fascinating end-time focus from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, one of its pioneers, and commentary.

12 Phases toward Sunday Laws

(How Events Began)

Introduction

It is noted in Luke 4:16 that Christ's custom was to attend the synagogue on the Sabbath day. In His Olivet discourse He urged that when fleeing an end-time abomination, "*Pray that your flight be not in the winter or on the Sabbath day*" (Matthew 24:20). From Israel's exodus through the time of Christ, the seventh-day Sabbath had been God's unique "set-aside" time for worship. Its origin was at Creation (Genesis 2:3).

Later, the Book of Barnabas (140–150 A.D.) suggests that the eighth day (Sunday) on which Christ arose had become a joyous time that should be kept.¹

Historian Justin Martyr (approximately 150 A.D.) gave the first known reliable record of Sunday worship related to the resurrection of Jesus. As a follower of Aristotle, Pythagoras, Plato, and Christianity, he became known as a "church father." Yet, he was an antisemite, as were most Gnostics at that time.

He attacked keeping Saturday as the Sabbath: "Now, sirs, I said, it is possible for us to show how the eighth day possessed a certain mysterious import, which the seventh day did not possess."²

Even before Jerusalem fell in 70 A.D., hatred for the Jewish people rose to a "boiling point." Early in the Christian era that antisemitic spirit manifested itself through opposition to the seventh-day Sabbath.

¹ Barnabas, *Epistle of Barnabas*, chapter 15.

² Martyr, Justin; *Dialogue with Trypho*, ch 41.

When Roman emperor Constantine came into power, he, too, promoted *antisemitism*: “Let us then have nothing in common with the detestable Jewish crowd.”³

“In 321 Constantine made Sunday a public holiday and put into effect what might be called the world’s first ‘blue laws.’ The edict proclaimed, ‘All judges, city-people, and craftsmen shall rest on the venerable day of the Sun. But countrymen may without hindrance attend to agriculture, since it often happens that this is the most suitable day for sowing grain or planting vines.’ Despite the edict, many Christians continued the long-standing practice of observing the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) as well, until the mid-360’s, when the church forbade it.”⁴

Opposition to the seventh-day Sabbath then grew rapidly. Statements from writers of that time:

“Stand aloof from all observance of Sabbath [the seventh day].”⁵

“On the seventh day He (God) rested from His work, and blessed it, and sanctified it. ... lest we appear to observe any Sabbath with the Jews, which Christ Himself, the Lord of the Sabbath, says ... in His body abolished.”⁶ (By being resurrected on Sunday.)

The strongest blow against the seventh-day Sabbath came in 365 A.D. in the Council of Laodicea:

“Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Saturday but shall work on that day; but the Lord’s day they shall especially honor, and, as being Christians, shall, if possible, do no work on that day. If, however, they are found Judaizing, they shall be shut out from Christ.”⁷

The image of the sun was adopted from Mithraism, became part of the Roman Church, and was venerated, honoring that day, Sunday.⁸

Fast-forward to the end of time:

“The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty; for it is the point of truth especially controverted.”⁹

“The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation by merely human authority of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath is the last act in the drama.”¹⁰

Expositor White has provided helpful insight as to how this will evolve. She depicts what God’s people will experience in the near future. These are divided in this narrative into “phases” to delineate those unique steps.

³ Constantine quoted (300 A.D.+) by Eusebius, *Life of Constantine*, book 3, chp 18.

⁴ *The Readers Digest Association, Inc.*, “After Jesus –The Triumph of Christianity,” New York, 1992.

⁵ Cyril of Jerusalem, *Lectures*, Lecture 4, para 37.

⁶ Victorinus, *On the Creation of the World*.

⁷ *Council of Laodicea* (365 A.D.), canon 29, “History of the Church Councils,” Charles Joseph Hefele.

⁸ <https://mythiclibrary.com/persian/the-myth-of-mithra-the-persian-god-of-light-and-justice/>

⁹ *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, p. 422.

¹⁰ *Christian Service*, p. 50.

Twelve Phases toward Sunday Laws

(The Onset)

1. Work on Sunday Legislation Goes on Behind the Scenes

“The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending.”¹¹

2. Public Interest in a Sabbath Day

“Sunday will be exalted as a day to honor.”¹²

Sunday promotion began to accelerate in 1985 when a revision to *The Roman Catechism* was published.

“The civil authorities should be urged to cooperate with the church in maintaining and strengthening this public worship of God, and to support with their own authority the regulations set down by the church’s pastors.” The next paragraph added, “For it is only in this that the faithful will understand why it is Sunday and not the Sabbath day that we now keep holy.”¹³

1991: Pat Robertson wrote a provocative book, *The New World Order*. Relative to the Sabbath he said, “Christians have several obligations. One is, ‘Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy ...’ Since exaltation and promised rewards come from one day of rest and worship, I am determined to remake my Sundays according to the biblical model.”¹⁴

The brilliant late Keith Fournier, a Catholic attorney, had been the head of the Religious Liberty section of the Christian Coalition. He later broke away and started the Catholic Alliance. In one of his books, *A House United*, he stated: “It seems to me that it is up to the clergy and others among us concerned with the quality of life to speak out strongly for a value system which is supportive of our families and communities. We must articulate a vision of life which values family time, reflective time and communities built on caring and mutual support. Only by framing the Sunday closing laws in this manner do we have a chance for ensuring a basic quality of life for our families and communities.”¹⁵

September 2, 1996, *Seattle Times*: “Let’s start a movement to reclaim a Sabbath.”

April 19, 1997, *World* magazine: Appealed to reconsider careful Sabbath keeping (Sunday): “But isn’t it hard to keep the Sabbath in today’s world? Everything claims the day now – the malls and movies, soccer and softball. Yes, it will be a challenge to respond to God’s unique claim on the day. But isn’t it a wonderful opportunity for testimony? We need not be legalistic (adding man-made burdens) or self-righteous (thinking ourselves superior)

¹¹ *Last Day Events*, p. 127.

¹² *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, p. 71.

¹³ *The Roman Catechism*, 1985.

¹⁴ Robertson, Pat; *The New World Order*, pp. 236-237.

¹⁵ Fournier, Keith; *A House United*, 1995.

to keep the Sabbath. But the world ought to notice that this is one of many ways in which Christians are different – they reserve a day for God and they enjoy it!”

1998: Pope John Paul II outlined the plans for the Jubilee 2000-year celebration. He dedicated the year of 1997 to Jesus, 1998 to the Holy Spirit, the focus of 1999 to God the Father, and 2000 to church unity.

On July 7, 1998, he released a document that he felt vital for the Jubilee preparation – an apostolic letter called *Dies Domini*. There he dealt extensively with the reasons Sunday should be worshipped. Examples:

Point 47: “Even if in the earliest times it was not judged necessary to be prescriptive [forced obedience], the Church has not ceased to confirm this obligation of conscience, which rises from the inner need felt so strongly by the Christians of the first centuries. It was only later, faced with the half-heartedness of negligence of some, that *the Church had to make explicit the duty to attend Sunday Mass: more often than not, this was done in the form of exhortation, but at times the Church had to resort to specific canonical precepts* [legal action].”

Point 48: “Bishops must ensure that Christians appreciate Sunday.”

Point 66: “*In this matter, my predecessor Pope Leo XIII in his Encyclical Rerum Novarum spoke of Sunday rest as a worker’s right which the State must guarantee.*”

“*In our own historical context that remains the obligation to ensure that everyone can enjoy the freedom, rest and relaxation which human dignity requires, together with the associated religious, family, cultural and interpersonal needs which are difficult to meet if there is no guarantee of at least one day of the week on which people can both rest and celebrate. Naturally, this right of workers to rest presupposes their right to work and, as we reflect on the question of the Christian understanding of Sunday, we cannot but recall with a deep sense of solidarity the hardship of countless men and women who, because of the lack of jobs, are forced to remain inactive on workdays as well.*”

“The present Code reiterates this, saying that “on Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to attend Mass.” (Point 82) “*This legislation has normally been understood as entailing a grave obligation: this is the teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church,*” (Point 83) “*it is easy to understand why if we keep in mind how vital Sunday is for the Christian life.*”

Bishop Piero Marin, head of the liturgical celebration plans for the Jubilee said: “Making Sunday holy is placed above all in the framework of the preparation for the Great Jubilee.... Though the pope’s letter is directed at Catholics, his concerns reach beyond the Vatican and into other religions.”¹⁶

Detroit Free Press, Aug. 22, 1998 – “Sabbath rest is ‘not a new idea,’ ... It is as old as creation itself. But it seems to be making a comeback in the United States and around the world.”

¹⁶ *Vatican Information Service*, July 7, 1998.

Former “Texas Gov. George W. Bush may represent the newest generation of Republicans, but when it comes to Sundays, he’s old fashioned. Aides say he won’t campaign on the Sabbath. ‘He just won’t do it, and it sometimes creates problems,’ says an adviser.”¹⁷

Dr. James C. Dobson, April 1999: “I’d like to make a case once more for setting aside one day for rest and relaxation.” *Focus on the Family* [radio spot].

Diana Hardman, July 15, 2002: “Sunday should be a time for spiritual growth, family activities, restoration, reading and spiritual refreshment... I believe that the government should step in and make Sunday a day of rest where all businesses must be closed. Everything must be closed on Sundays, including all gas stations, grocery stores, department stores, small business, and large business. We need a day when people are forced to spend time with their families.... I would like to see a new law in government in the near future to force all businesses to be closed on Sundays so that nobody has to work on the Sabbath.”¹⁸

3. Churches Unite on Shared Interests

Out of Vatican II, which Pope John XXIII called in 1962, came this declaration:

“The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council. Christ the Lord founded one Church and one Church only. However, many Christian communions present themselves to men as the true inheritors of Jesus Christ; all indeed profess to be followers of the Lord but different in mind and go their different ways, as if Christ Himself were divided.

“Nevertheless, **our separated brethren**, whether considered as individuals or as Communities and Churches are not blessed with that unity which Jesus Christ wished to bestow....

“Their ecumenical action must be fully and sincerely Catholic, that is to say, faithful to the truth which we have received from the apostles and Fathers of the Church, in harmony with the faith which the Catholic Church as always professed.”¹⁹

This union is imperative to provide collective power for Protestants to approach the federal government to ask for Sunday legislation.

The late Billy Graham said in 1978: The pope is “the world’s greatest evangelist,” and he emphasized that any differences in theology “are not important as far as personal salvation is concerned.”²⁰

“When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to

¹⁷ *US News and World Report*, May 10, 1999.

¹⁸ *SpeakOut.com* (emphasis added).

¹⁹ https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19641121_unitatis-redintegratio_en.html. Decree on Ecumenism 1-a,c; 12; 24.

²⁰ *McCall's*, January 1978.

sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result.”²¹

In 1993 the Vatican called for a Parliament of World Religions (first time since 1893). Six thousand representatives from all the major world religious faiths were present. All worshiped together, including Wiccan witches. They produced an ecumenical document called *The Declaration of a Global Ethic*.

On March 29, 1994, a group of Evangelical Protestant Christians and the Roman Catholic Church met and worked out and signed *Evangelicals and Catholics Together*. “We pray that our unity in the love of Christ will become ever more evident as a sign to the world of God’s reconciling power.”

In December of 2001, Queen Elizabeth II met with Pope John Paul II in the Vatican to discuss closer ties between the Anglican Church and Rome.

The Constitution of Great Britain gives the queen the task of protecting the Anglican Church from papal influences! At her coronation in 1953, all Catholics were barred from even entering a Protestant church.

Prior to the recent King Charles III coronation, Pope Francis gave him two alleged fragments of Christ’s “actual cross.” Charles embedded them in a much larger cross which led his coronation procession. Catholic cardinals were present – at first.

In January of 2002, Pope John Paul II called the leaders of 200+ different denominations to Assisi, Italy, for a three-day conference on peace and unity. It was considered a unique success. Protestants, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Orthodox Greeks, Jews, Sikhs, Shintos, African Witch Doctors, Salvation Army, and Quakers all came with only a five-week notice.

4. **Growing Interest in the Ten Commandments**

“The angel of Revelation 14 is represented as flying in the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, ‘Here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.’ This angel presents a message that is to be proclaimed to the world just before Christ comes in the clouds of heaven to take his elect to himself. Just prior to this time, then, the attention of the people is to be called to the down-trodden law of God.”²²

Former Alabama Judge Ray Moore had a three-dimensional model of the Ten Commandments hanging in his court room. In 1995 a member of a jury panel, who heard a case in his courtroom, filed a lawsuit protesting this. The ACLU predictably represented the juror. The Ten Commandments became a hotly contested issue by 1997.

In 1997 Governor Fob James of Alabama pledged to call out the National Guard to prevent removal of that Ten Commandments plaque.

²¹ *The Great Controversy*, p. 445.

²² *The Signs of the Times*, May 5, 1887.

“A federal court in Lexington, Ky., ruled that the Ten Commandments can remain on display in Mercer County courthouse, blocking the American Civil Liberties Union to have them removed.

“Francis J. Manion, senior counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice, argued the case for the country. Manion said: The First Amendment was never intended to remove all mention of God or religion from the public square. The Supreme Court and many other courts have long recognized the foundational role of the Ten Commandments in the development of our legal system.”²³

The Sabbath will be the controverted pivotal issue at the very end. The world, in turn, must have a sensitivity regarding the Ten Commandments and its seventh-day Sabbath requirement. This evangelical “agitation” begins that focus!

Yet, “Not one in a thousand ... knows what the Bible says about the Sabbath” within those laws.²⁴

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5. **Moves to Unify Church and State**

“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.”²⁶

“When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result.”²⁷

It wasn’t until 1947 that the US Supreme Court made a legal ruling that there should be a separation of church and state. Yet, currently, an accelerating move called Christian Nationalism is infiltrating this country. It is driven with a passion to have Christian principles and leadership control America!²⁸

²³ Dougherty, Jon; *World Net Daily*, August 23, 2002.

²⁴ *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, February 16, 1905.

²⁵ *The Signs of the Times*, May 5, 1887.

²⁶ *The Great Controversy*, p. 443.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 445.

²⁸ <https://www.npr.org/2023/02/14/1156642544/more-than-half-of-republicans-support-christian-nationalism-according-to-a-new-s>

<https://media.thegospelcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/02195248/The-Rise-of-Right-Wing-Wokeism.pdf>

6. Justification for a Sunday Law

“They will lament the great wickedness in the world and second the testimony of religious teachers that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday. Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony.”²⁹

“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.”³⁰

Expositor White gave us these three things that would be catalysts to mandate Sunday laws into the United States:

- Outcry over morals
- Calamities
- Financial worries

Morals:

A moral focus began less than a generation ago. Pastor Nathan D. Baxter, then-Dean of the Washington Cathedral, stated:

“I still believe that there is a social agreement in human society, among the children of Eve and Adam. A standard which is often abused but is still the barometer of our moral life, and that is modesty. We do expect, including in our sexual matters, responsible behavior, self-control and respect for the sensitivities of others. People of faith understand that this commitment is not just moral but it is also holy – it is blessed of God. Responsibility, self-control and respect. This is modesty, our moral contract as a community.

“The contract of modesty belongs in business, it belongs in religion, it belongs in law, and in the social sector, just as it does in politics. But we often wink at its abuse in politics because we say politics is about the negotiating of power, and therefore we believe that politics by nature is dirty work. But I know some very fine politicians, and they remind me that politics is also about stewardship. It is about the stewardship of values.”³¹

“Ultimately, what should make us respect leaders in a democracy is not simply intelligence, or charisma, or competence with power, ideology or any professional skill or native gift. The most important characteristic of leadership in a democracy is the ability to demonstrate accountable character, moral accountable character. Ultimately, the real power of politics is moral.”³²

As moral laxness accelerated and religious leaders remain transfixed with silence, these leaders spoke:

²⁹ *The Great Controversy*, p. 591.

³⁰ *The Great Controversy*, p. 590.

³¹ *Religious News Services*, August 29, 1998.

³² *Human Events*, September 4, 1998.

Judge Robert H. Bork, *Slouching Towards Gomorrah* (1996).

Attorney Stephen L. Carter, *The Culture of Disbelief* (1993).

William J. Bennett, *The Moral Compass* (1995) and *The Death of Outrage* (1998).

The moral goalposts continue to be reset and reset.

Calamities:

“Satan puts his interpretation upon events, and they think, as he would have them, that the calamities which fill the land are a result of Sunday-breaking. Thinking to appease the wrath of God, these influential men make laws enforcing Sunday observance.”³³

“The work of the people of God is to **prepare for the events of the future**, which will soon come upon them with blinding force.”³⁴

Paul warned the Thessalonian Christians that end-time events should not come as a surprise: “*For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober*” (I Thessalonians 5:3-4, 6).

Watch for what? End-time signs and events.

How can we watch unless we know with precision what will occur? We must understand well apocalyptic prophecy!

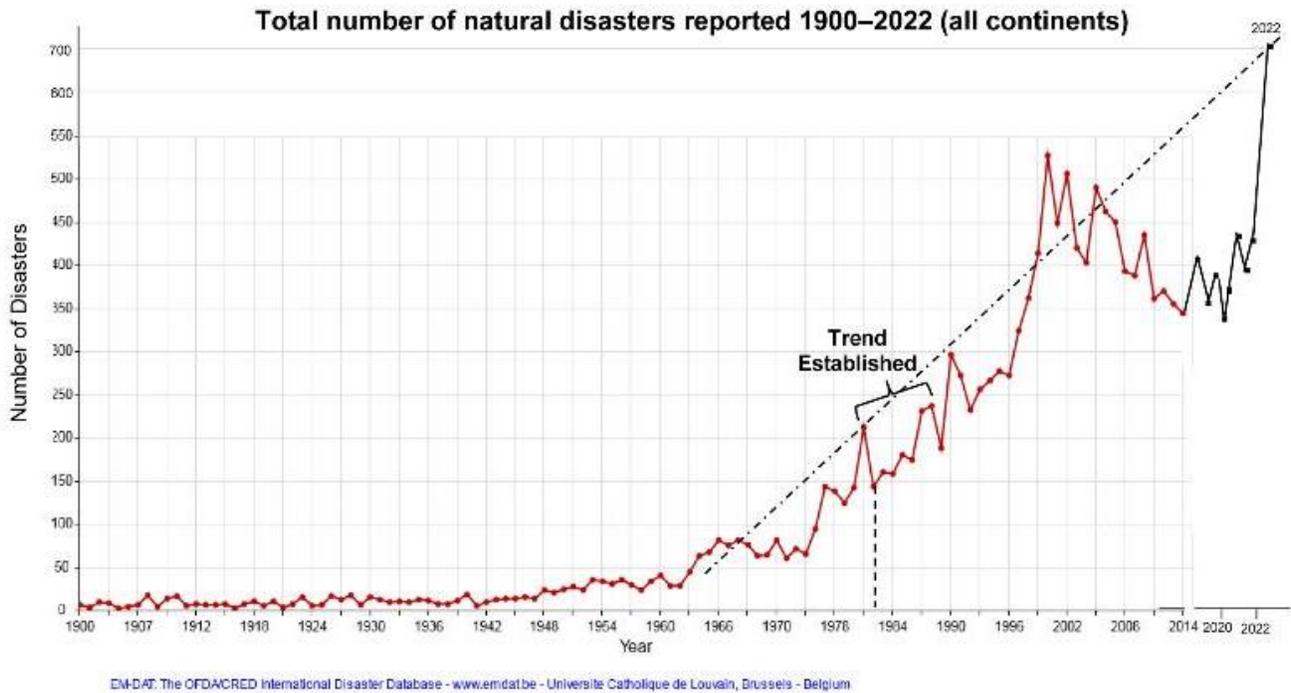
This weighed heavily on Ellen G. White’s mind when she said: “The solemn messages that have been given in their order in the Revelation are to occupy the first place in the minds of God’s people. Nothing else is to be allowed to engross our attention.”³⁵

The following graph shows the acceleration of world calamities that Christ predicted in Matthew 24:8:

³³ *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 10, p. 239.

³⁴ *Selected Messages*, vol. 2, p. 142.

³⁵ *Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 302.



“The scenes which are soon to crowd upon us would at the last *come very suddenly and swiftly.*”³⁶

Financial Ruin:

“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.*”³⁷

7. Sunday Laws – First Step

Without legal enforcement provisions, the worship mandate that will soon come on the law books will remain only as an ideal.

8. Spiritualistic Manifestations

“The miracle-working power manifested through spiritualism will exert its influence against those who choose to obey God rather than men. Communications from the spirits will declare that God has sent them to convince the rejecters of Sunday of their error, affirming that the laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God.”³⁸

“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

³⁶ *Selected Messages*, bk 3, p. 413.

³⁷ *The Great Controversy*, p. 590.

³⁸ *The Great Controversy*, p. 590.

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. 'And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.' [Revelation 13:4-18, quoted.]³⁹ ["*And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months*" (Revelation 13:5).]

9. Enforcement of the Sunday Laws

"A time is coming when the law of God is, in a special sense, to be made void in our land. 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. We see that those who are now keeping the commandments of God need to bestir themselves, that they may obtain the special help which God alone can give them."⁴⁰

"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.... 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.... Conscientious obedience to the Word of God will be treated as rebellion."⁴¹

By this time, the world will be focused on seventh-day Sabbath keepers. Attempts will be made to induce these individuals to submit to the Sunday-keeping laws.

"And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. 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 [existing laws must be 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."⁴²

Laws will be made directly against those who keep the seventh day as holy!

"The whole world is to be stirred with enmity against Seventh-day Adventists because they will not yield homage to the papacy by honoring Sunday, the institution of this antichristian power."⁴³

³⁹ *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, p. 282.

⁴⁰ *The Review and Herald*, December 18, 1888.

⁴¹ *Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald*, April 27, 1911/4/27/11.

⁴² *The Great Controversy*, p. 590.

⁴³ *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 37, 1893.

In 1996 Judge Robert Bork, in his book *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*, said:

“Only religion can accomplish for a modern society what tradition, reason, and empirical observation cannot. Christianity and Judaism provide the major premises of moral reasoning by revelation and by the stories in the Bible. There is no need to attempt the impossible task of reasoning your way to first principles. Those principles are accepted as given by God.”⁴⁴

“Perhaps the most promising development in our time is the rise of an energetic, optimistic, and politically sophisticated religious conservatism.”⁴⁵

“Religion must be recaptured.”⁴⁶

10. **Sunday Movement Spreads Throughout the World**

“History will be repeated. False religion will be exalted. The first day of the week, a common working day, possessing no sanctity whatever, will be set up as was the image at Babylon. All nations and tongues and peoples will be commanded to worship this spurious sabbath.... The decree enforcing the worship of this day is to go forth to all he world.”⁴⁷

“Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States. Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon ... [God’s] people in all parts of the world.”⁴⁸

“The wicked ... declared that they had the truth, that miracles were among them, that angels from heaven talked with them and walked with them, that great power and signs and wonders were performed among them, and that this was the temporal millennium that they had been expecting so long. The whole world was converted and in harmony with the Sunday law.”⁴⁹

11. **Laws Enforcing Sabbath Work**

“The time will come when men will not only forbid Sunday work, but they will try to force men to labor on the Sabbath. And men will be asked to renounce the Sabbath and to subscribe to Sunday observance or forfeit their freedom and their lives.”⁵⁰

⁴⁴ Bork, Judge Robert; *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*, p. 278.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 336.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, p 342.

⁴⁷ *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 976, 1897.

⁴⁸ *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 395, 1900.

⁴⁹ *Selected Messages*, bk 3, pp. 427-428.

⁵⁰ *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 4, p. 444.

12. Death Decree

“Secular rulers and religious leaders will unite to enforce the observance of the Sunday; and as milder measures fail, the most oppressive laws will be enacted. It will be urged that the few who stand in opposition to an institution of the church and a law of the land ought not to be tolerated, and a decree will finally be issued denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment, and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death. Romanism in the Old World, and apostate Protestantism in the New, will pursue a similar course toward those who honor the divine precepts.”⁵¹

The actual decree comes before probation closes, then is enforcement afterward, during the Great Tribulation. Our final commitment: *“Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin”* (Hebrews 12:4).

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds” (Hebrews 12:1-3).

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⁵¹ *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 36.