

E A R T H ' S F I N A L W A R N I N G

CHAOS AWAITS MAJOR CITIES...RESULTING IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF A NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW AND THAT NO MAN MIGHT BUY OR SELL, SAVE HE THAT HAD THE MARK, OR THE NAME OF THE BEAST. Rev 13:17

LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE DENIED

EVERY PRINCIPLE OF THE CONSTITUTION WILL BE REPUDIATED

ALTHOUGH SHOCKING, IT IS IMPERATIVE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN BE SHARED. THOUGH THE TRUTH HAS BEEN IGNORED AND NEGLECTED FOR MANY YEARS, IT MUST NOW BE EXPOSED OUT OF LOVE FOR THOSE WHO KNOW IT NOT

Apostasy and National Ruin. When the Protestant churches shall unite with the secular power to sustain a false religion...When the state shall use its power to enforce the decrees and sustain the institutions of the church-then will Protestant America have formed an image to the papacy, and there will be a national apostasy which will end only in national ruin.

WHO IS THE BEAST, THE DRAGON, AND THE WOMAN?

In prophetic language, the symbol of a Woman represents a church, as we find it in Jeremiah 6:1-2 or Ephesians 5:24-27. Also in the book of Revelation, it is described to us, by the symbol of a "woman" the pure and only church of Christ, that "keeps the commandments of God and has the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 12:6, 13-17; 14:12). The same book of Revelation describes another "woman" that is not of Christ, it is a rich, arrogant and persecuting church as we will see:

REVELATION CHAPTER 17

[All italic print in brackets is supplied by us]

1) And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore [impure church] that sitteth upon many waters: [see verse 15] [she controls multitudes and nations].

2) With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication [political alliances], and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication [mysteries, traditions & false doctrines].

3) So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness; and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. [see verse 9 for a clearer understanding].

4) And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour [the colors in the attire of her leadership], and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand [the vessels of her rituals] full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

5) And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

6) And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus; and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. [a murderous & persecuting church].

7) And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

8) The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition [she will fully recover from her mortal wound to her former brilliance, before final destruction; compare text with Rev 13:4]; and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

9) And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. [historically, Rome has been the city of the seven mountains]

10) And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

11) And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. [the eighth king of the revived beast will see her destruction]

12) And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings [world powers at large], which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. [still future]

13) These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

14) These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

15) And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. [she controls them through world governments]

16) And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire [they will at the end turn against her].

17) For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will [to burn her with fire], and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast [new secular order], until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

18) And the woman [the impure church] which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth. [with prophetic insight into the future, John was unmistakably hinting at the city of Rome and at the church that was to emerge thereof].

Jesus said in Matt 11:28-30: "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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."

SATURDAY IS THE SABBATH... THE 7TH DAY... THE LORD'S DAY

Beware of SUNDAY ... Counterfeit SABBATH ... THE MARK OF THE BEAST WILL BE ENFORCED AS THE DAY OF REST & WORSHIP BY A NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW! EXODUS 20:8-11, EZEKIEL 20:20, DANIEL 7:25, MATTHEW 12:8, LUKE 23:56, REVELATION 13:16-17 & 14:7-12

"The Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath Day." (Matthew 12:8). The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. (Fourth Commandment Exodus 20:8-11) And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James... very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun... And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man. And he saith unto them, be not affrighted; Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified; He is risen. (Mark 16:1-6)

Everyone knows that Sunday was the resurrection day. "The Sabbath was past" when it dawned. Thus it is evident that the Sabbath is Saturday, the day before Sunday.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." (Matthew 5:17).

"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." (Matthew 5:18).

"The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27).

"And that day was the Preparation day and the Sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with Him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the Sepulcher, and how His body was laid. And they returned and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment." (Luke 23:54-56).

Notice that Luke, a non Jewish biblical writer, approximately 37 years AFTER the resurrection of Christ, still called the Sabbath (the seventh day of the week) a Commandment of God.

"And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scripture." (Acts 17:2).

"And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks." (Acts 18:4).

"There remaineth therefore a rest [Sabbath] to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works as God did from His." (Hebrews 4:9, 10).

"For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day... And God did rest the seventh day from all his works... And blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." (Hebrews 4:4 and Exodus 20:11)

In the New Testament, there are no less than 59 references to the Sabbath. The book of Acts records 84 Sabbaths on which the Apostle Paul and his associates held religious services. Yet there is not ONE word in the entire Bible authorizing Sunday keeping.

"He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth NOT His Commandments, IS A LIAR, and THE TRUTH IS NOT IN HIM." (1John 2:4). "If you love Me KEEP my commandments." (John 14:15). "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet OFFEND IN ONE POINT, he is GUILTY OF ALL." (James 2:10).

The law that the Bible refers to, here, is the law of the TEN COMMANDMENTS, which were written by God's finger. (James 2:8-11, Mathew 5:17-21, Exodus 31:18, Deuteronomy 10:1-4).

"And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up for to read." (Luke 4:16). "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the Commandments." (Matthew 19:17).

"God blessed the SEVENTH DAY AND SANCTIFIED IT." (Genesis 2:3) "He hath blessed and I cannot reverse it." (Numbers 23:20) "For thou blessest, O Lord, and it shall be blessed forever." (1 Chronicles 17:27).

"Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 7:21). "Many will say to Me that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy Name? And in Thy Name have we cast out devils? And in Thy Name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; Depart from Me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:22, 23). "For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain; and it shall come to pass that from one new moon to another and from one Sabbath to another shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the Lord." (Isaiah 66:22, 23).

According to Colossians 2:14-17, the sacrifices with its ceremonies and rituals as registered in Leviticus 23 and other texts, were nailed (abolished) on the cross. But not the Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment that is Eternal, as indicated in the above Bible verses.

THOSE WHO HONOR THE BIBLE SABBATH WILL BE DENOUNCED AS ENEMIES OF LAW AND ORDER

As breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government. Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God. In legislative halls and courts of justice, commandment-keepers will be misrepresented and condemned...

As the Protestant churches reject the clear, Scriptural arguments in defense of God's law, they will long to silence those whose faith they cannot overthrow by the Bible...

The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor the Sunday. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments. Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. In the soon coming conflict, we shall see exemplified the prophet's words: "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Rev. 12:17, Great Controversy, page 592.

Papist, 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. G.C. page 406

"FIRST DAY" BIBLE TEXTS

Millions of conscientious Christians attend church every Sunday, the first day of the week. They do so believing that somewhere, somehow, someone changed the day of worship. Either that, or they aren't aware that God set aside the seventh day, not the first day of the week, as His holy day. It is true, a change has been made. But by whom? We've discovered that God made the Sabbath during the first week of earth's history. He set it aside as a weekly appointment between man and Himself - as a blessing, a refreshment, the day to especially remember, honor and worship Him as our Creator and King. If God changed His mind about His special appointed day with us, wouldn't He have recorded so momentous an adjustment in the Bible?

There are only eight texts in the New Testament that mention the first day of the week. Please look at them carefully. (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1, 2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1; John 20:19; Acts 20:7, 8; 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2).

The first five texts simply state that the women came to the sepulcher early on the resurrection morning, and that Jesus rose from the dead. Now look up John 20:19 in your Bible. It tells us that Jesus appeared to the disciples later on the resurrection day. It says that the reason they were assembled was "for fear of the Jews." No telling when the Jews might grab them and treat them to the same fate as their Master. They had seen their beloved Master die on Friday. They returned and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment. (Luke 23:56)

And now they're hiding with the door shut for "fear of the Jews," see (John 20:19) There's no mention of a change. The seventh text is Acts 20:7. It says, "and upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow and continued his speech until midnight. "And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together." This was a night meeting - the dark part of the first day of the week. In the Bible reckoning, the dark part of the day comes before the light part. (Genesis 1:5) "And God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." The dark part comes first.

The Bible reckons a day from sunset to sunset. The seventh day begins at sunset Friday evening. The first day begins sunset Saturday evening.

Paul is together with his friends on the dark part of the first day of the week which we call today "Saturday night." This is a farewell get-together. He preaches until midnight until poor Eutychus falls out of the window. (Acts 20:9) You can imagine how relieved they were when it was found that God spared his life. Verse eleven says that they talked till the break of day, and then Paul departed. Verse thirteen shows that Paul spent that Sunday morning traveling to Assos. There's nothing here either concerning a change of the Sabbath. The New English Bible translates this text like this: "On Saturday night, in our assembly for the breaking of the bread, Paul who was to leave the next day, addressed them, and went on speaking until midnight." (Acts 20:7).

The last text that mentions the first day of the week is in 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2. It says: "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come." Verse three tells us that he will bring the offering to Jerusalem. As he had done in Galatia, so Paul also requested of those in Corinth to have a collection all ready when he would come to take it to the poor saints in Jerusalem. There's nothing in the text about a church service, but each person is to "lay by him in store." The first day of the week was the best time for people to set some money aside because later in the week it would be spent. That's true today as well! Paul requested this so "that there be no gathering when I come." (1 Corinthians 16:2).

THE OLD COVENANT WAS RATIFIED BY THE BLOOD OF ANIMALS (Exodus 24:5-8 and Hebrews 9:19, 20) and based upon the promises of the people that they would keep God's law. The new covenant is based on God's promise to write His law on our hearts, as it was ratified with the blood of Christ (Hebrews 8:10 and Jeremiah 31:33, 34) Hebrews 8:10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord: I will write my laws into their minds, and write them in their heart; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people."

CATHOLICISM SPEAKS "Sunday is a Catholic institution, and the claims to its observance can be defended only on Catholic principles... From beginning to end of Scripture, there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first." The Catholic Press, Sydney, Australia, August, 1900.

"Question: Have you any other way of proving that the (Catholic) Church has power to institute festivals of precept (TO COMMAND HOLY DAYS)?" Answer: "Had she not such power, she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scripture authority." Stephen Keenan, A Doctrinal Catechism, page 176.

"If Protestants would follow the Bible, they should worship God on the Sabbath Day. In keeping the Sunday, they are following a law of the Catholic Church." Albert Smith, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, replying for the Cardinal in a letter, February 1, 1920.

"We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." Peter Geiermann, CSSR, A Doctrinal Catechism, 1957 Edition, page 50.

"The Church changed the observance of the Sabbath to Sunday by right of the divine, infallible authority given to her by her founder, Jesus Christ. The Protestant, claiming the Bible to be the only guide of faith, has no warrant for observing Sunday. In this matter the Seventh-day Adventist is the only consistent Protestant." The Catholic Universe Bulletin, August 14, 1942, page 4.

"We all gather on the day of the SUN... Sunday on which the paschal mystery is celebrated in the light of the apostolic tradition and is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal church." New Catholic Catechism (1993), pages 582, 583.

LET NO MAN DECEIVE YOU...FOR THAT DAY SHALL NOT COME, EXCEPT THERE COME A FALLING AWAY FIRST...AND THE MAN OF SIN BE REVEALED...

WHO...EXALTETH HIMSELF ABOVE ALL THAT IS CALLED GOD OR THAT IS WORSHIPPED; SO THAT HE AS GOD SITTETH IN THE TEMPLE OF GOD, SHEWING HIMSELF THAT HE IS GOD, 2 THESSALONIANS 2:3,4

HER MARK

"THE OBSERVANCE OF SUNDAY by the Protestants is a HOMAGE THEY PAY in spite of themselves to the AUTHORITY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH." Monsignor Louis Segur, Plain Talk about the Protestantism of Today, page 213.

"The Catholic Church, for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday." The Catholic Mirror, September, 1893.

"Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act... And the act is a MARK of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things." H.F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons.

"Sunday is our MARK of authority. The Church is above the Bible, and this transference of the Sabbath observance is proof of that fact." The Catholic Record, London, Ontario, September 1, 1923.

"PROTESTANTISM SPEAKS"

Anglican: "And where are we told in the Scriptures that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day." Isaac Williams, Plain Sermons on the Catechism, pages 334, 336.

Baptist: "Of course I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learned from the Christian fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it comes branded with the MARK of paganism and christened with the name of the SUN-GOD, then adopted and sanctified by the Papal apostasy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism." Dr. E. T. Hiscox, report of his sermon at the Baptist Minister's Convention in New York Examiner, November 16, 1893.

THE FIRST SUNDAY LAW

"The earliest recognition of the observance of Sunday as a legal duty is a constitution of Constantine in 321 A.D." Encyclopedia Britannica, Ninth Edition, Article "Sunday."

THE LAST WARNING OF LOVE FROM GOD (The Three Angels' Messages for These Days)

Revelation 14:6-12 "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him: for the hour of His judgment has come: And worship Him that made heaven and earth, the sea and fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine [false doctrines and traditions] of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, if any man worship the beast [the mother church now enthroned, rides on the beast] and his image, [separated daughters supporting her Sunday legislation] and receive his MARK in his forehead, or on 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; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever; and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the MARK [COMPULSORY LAWS FOR SUNDAY KEEPING] of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God [INCLUDING SATURDAY KEEPING] and the faith of Jesus."

COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE

Revelation 18:1-8 "After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hateful bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine [her false doctrines & traditions] of the wrath of her fornication, the kings [nations' leaders] of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury. And I heard another angel from heaven saying, COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. for her sins have reached to heaven, and God remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works, in the CUP which she has mixed, mix double for her. In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow. Therefore her plagues will come in one day - death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her."

WHEN THE LEADING CHURCHES OF THE UNITED STATES, UNITING ON SUCH POINTS OF DOCTRINES 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 [THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST FOUND IN REV. CHAPTER 13], AND THE INFLECTION OF CIVIL PENALTIES UPON DISSIDENTS WILL INEVITABLY RESULT... GREAT CONTROVERSY...PAGE 445

BY THE DECREE ENFORCING 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 WORKINGS OF SATAN AND THAT THE END IS NEAR... TESTIMONIES VOL. 5 PAGE 451

A BIBLE COMMENTARY ON REVELATION CHAPTER 17

[Rev. 17:13, 14 quoted] "These have one mind." There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces. "And shall give their power and strength unto the beast." This is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism.

In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be united, in opposition to God's people, all the corrupt powers that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah. In this warfare the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will be the great point at issue; for in the Sabbath commandment the great Lawgiver identifies Himself as the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

As Christ was glorified on the day of Pentecost, so will He again be glorified in the closing work of the gospel, when He shall prepare a people to stand the final test, in the closing conflict of the great controversy - Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary ... Vol. 7, page 983.

[Rev 13:11-17 quoted] - 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...

This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who prove 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. Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary.. Vol. 7 page 976.

"As Adventists relate to Roman Catholicism in particular, both the past and the future enter into our thinking. We can not erase or ignore the historical record of serious intolerance and even persecution on the part of the Roman Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic System of church governance, based on extra-biblical teachings such as papal primacy, resulted in several abuses of religious freedom as the church was allied with the state.

Seventh-day Adventists are convinced of the validity of our prophetic views, according to which humanity now lives close to the end of time. Adventists believe, on the basis of biblical prediction, that just prior to the second coming of Christ, this earth will experience a period of unprecedented turmoil, with the seventh-day Sabbath as the focal point. In that context, we expect that world religions - including the major Christian bodies as key players - will align themselves with the forces in opposition to God and to the Sabbath. Once again the union of church and state will result in widespread religious oppression. [This is a portion of a statement recorded on April 15, 1997, by the SDA Gen. Conference ADCOM and released by the office of the president, Robert S. Folkenberg]

The Romish church now presents a fair front to the world, ... but she is unchanged. Every principle of popery that existed in ages past exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The popery that Protestants are now so ready to embrace and honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up at the peril of their lives to expose her iniquity. Popery is just what prophesy declared that she would be, the apostasy of the latter times. Great Controversy Pages 387-388.

WHY THE FINAL WARNING?

Of Babylon, at the time brought to view in this prophecy [time of the end], 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.

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 no 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 (Great Controversy, pages 604, 605)

He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility...While we are to be in harmony with God's law, we are not saved by the works of the law, yet we can not be saved without obedience. But we cannot possibly keep the commandments of God without the regenerating grace of Christ. Jesus alone can cleanse us from all sin. He does not save us by law, neither will He save us in disobedience to law. (Faith and Works, pages 94-95)

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU, AND "PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD"

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