

**Jer. 52:4-7:** And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that **Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem**, and pitched against it, and built forts against it round about. 5) So the **city was besieged** unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah. 6) And in the fourth month, in the ninth day of the month, the famine was sore in the city, so that there was no bread for the people of the land. 7) **Then the city was broken up**. ...

**Jer. 19: 3, 6-9:** And say, Hear ye the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, **I will bring evil upon this place**, the which whosoever heareth, his ears shall tingle. 6) Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that this place shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom, but **the valley of slaughter**. 7) And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place; and **I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies**, and by the hands of them that seek their lives: and their carcasses will I give to be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth. 8) **And I will make this city desolate**, and an hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished and hiss because of all the plagues thereof. 9) And **I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they shall eat every one the flesh of his friend in the siege and \*straitness, wherewith their enemies, and they that seek their lives, shall \*straiten them.**

**Eze. 24:1, 2:** Again in the ninth year, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2) Son of man, write thee the name of the day, even of this same day: **the king of Babylon set himself against Jerusalem this same day.**

**Jer. 39:1, 2:** In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, came **Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and all his army against Jerusalem, and they besieged it**. 2) And in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, **the city was broken up**.

**Lam.4:9, 10:** They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be **slain with hunger**: for these pine away, stricken through for want of the fruits of the field. 10) The hands of the pitiful women have **\*sodden their own children**: they were their meat in the **destruction of the daughter of my people**.

\*sodden: boiled (past tense of seethe)

**Eze. 4:3:** Moreover, take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between thee and **the city**: and set thy face against it, and it shall be **\*besieged**, and thou shalt **lay \*siege against it**. This shall be a **sign** to the house of Israel.

**Hab. 1:6, 7:** For, lo, **I raise up the Chaldeans**, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwelling-places that are not theirs. 7) They are **terrible and dreadful**: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves.

**Mat. 23: 37, 38:** O **Jerusalem, Jerusalem**, thou that **killest the prophets**, and stonest them that are sent unto thee, how often **would I have gathered** thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and **ye would not**. 38) **Behold, your house is left unto you desolate**.

**Luke 19: 43:** For the days shall come upon thee, that **thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and \*compass thee around, and keep thee in on every side**.

**Luke 21:20, 22-24:** When ye shall **see Jerusalem compassed with armies**, then know that the **desolation** thereof is nigh. 22) For these be the **days of vengeance**, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23) But woe unto them that are with child, and to them who give suck in those days, for there shall be **great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people**. 24) And **they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive** into all nations; and **Jerusalem shall be trodden down** of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

#### **SOME DEFINITIONS FOR CLARITY:**

**Strong's Concordance:** **Compass thee around:** G4033: From G4012 and G2944; **to encircle all around**, that is, **blockade completely**: - compass round.

**Webster's Dictionary:** **\*Compass:** (verb) (1828 edition), extend, embrace the whole, **enclose** on all sides, **surround, \*besiege, \*beleaguer, block-up**

**Siege:** (noun), a military **blockade** of a city or fortified place **to compel** it to surrender, **persistent attack**

**Siege:** (verb), to besiege militarily, to **pursue diligently or persistently**

**Besiege:** (verb), to surround with armed forces, to press with requests; importune, to cause worry or distress; \*beset

\***Beleaguer:** (verb), to surround with an army so as to prevent escape, besiege, \*beset, harass

\***Beset:** trouble, harass, surround

\***Straitness:** causing distress, difficulty, limited as to means and resources

**Strong's Concordance:** **Straiten:** H6693: A primitive root; to compress, that is, (figuratively) oppress, distress: - constrain, distress, lie sore, (op-) press (-or), straiten.

\***Straitness:** H4689, from H6693: a narrow place, that is, (abstractly and figuratively); confinement or disability: - anguish, distress, straitness.

#### A.) SIEGES OF JERUSALEM, (Old Testament):

The times in which Isaiah was to labor were fraught with peculiar peril to the people of God. ... Judah was again and again to be invaded by the Assyrian armies, and Jerusalem was to suffer a siege that would have resulted in her downfall had not God miraculously interposed. Already grave perils were threatening the peace of the southern kingdom. The divine protection was being removed, and the Assyrian forces were about to overspread the land of Judah. PK 305.2 (Prophets and Kings)

For forty years Jeremiah was to stand before the nation as a witness for truth and righteousness. In a time of unparalleled apostasy, he was to exemplify in life and character the worship of the only true God. During the terrible sieges of Jerusalem, he was to be the mouthpiece of Jehovah. He was to predict the downfall of the house of David and the destruction of the beautiful temple built by Solomon. And when imprisoned because of his fearless utterances, he was still to speak plainly against sin in high places. Despised, hated, rejected of men, he was finally to witness the literal fulfillment of his own prophecies of impending doom, and share in the sorrow and woe that should follow the destruction of the fated city. PK 408.1 (Prophets and Kings)

While Jeremiah continued to bear his testimony in the land of Judah, the prophet Ezekiel was raised up from among the captives in Babylon, to warn and to comfort the exiles, and also to confirm the word of the Lord that was being spoken through Jeremiah. ... He was also instructed to foretell, by means of a variety of symbols and solemn messages, the siege and utter destruction of Jerusalem. PK 448.1 (Prophets and Kings)

The Egyptians endeavored to come to the rescue of the beleaguered city (Jerusalem); and the Chaldeans, in order to keep them back, abandoned for a time their siege of the Judean capital. PK 452.2 (Prophets and Kings)

At the time of the final overthrow of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, many had escaped the horrors of the long siege, only to perish by the sword. Of those who still remained, some, notably the chief of the priests and officers and the princes of the realm, were taken to Babylon and there executed as traitors. Others were carried captive, to live in servitude to Nebuchadnezzar and to his sons "until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah." PK 459.1 (Prophets and Kings)

In the closing years of Judah's apostasy, the exhortations of the prophets were seemingly of but little avail; and as the armies of the Chaldeans came for the third and last time to besiege Jerusalem, hope fled from every heart. PK 466.1 (Prophets and Kings)

It (Jerusalem) was thrice taken by Nebuchadnezzar, in the years BC 607, 597, and 586, in the last of which it was utterly destroyed. Smith's Bible Dictionary, 303

Daniel and his companions had been taken to Babylon "in the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah." They were members of the first company of captives whom Nebuchadnezzar brought from Jerusalem into the land of Shinar. Daniel was well acquainted with the prophecies of Jeremiah at the time they were given, and he had passed through the periods immediately succeeding the first and the second sieges of Jerusalem, when many false prophets had arisen with the claim that the captivity was to be of short duration. RH Mar.14, 1907 par.2 (Review and Herald)

#### SIEGES OF JERUSALEM, 66/70 AD:

...“When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Mat. 24) Verse 3. The future was mercifully veiled from the disciples. Had they at that time fully comprehended the two awful facts—the Redeemer's sufferings and death, and the destruction of their city and temple—they would have been overwhelmed with horror. Christ presented before them an outline of the prominent events to take place before the close of time. His words were not then fully understood; but their meaning was to be unfolded as His people should need the instruction therein given. The prophecy which He uttered was twofold in its meaning; while foreshadowing the destruction of Jerusalem, it prefigured also the terrors of the last great day. GC 25.2, 3 (Great Controversy)

Christ forewarned His disciples of the destruction of Jerusalem and the signs to take place prior to the coming of the Son of man. The whole of the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew is a prophecy concerning the events to precede this event, and the destruction of Jerusalem is used to typify the last great destruction of the world by fire. Manuscript 77, 1899 par.4

It is no time now for God's people to be fixing their affections or laying up their treasure in the world. The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation, in the decree enforcing the papal Sabbath, will be a warning to us. 5T 464.3 (Testimonies, Vol. 5)

The utter wasting of the land and the horrible suffering of the people during the siege of Jerusalem under Titus centuries later, were vividly portrayed: (Duet. 28: 51-57 quoted) PP 467.2 (Patriarchs and Prophets)

Not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem. Christ had given his disciples warning, and all who believed his words watched for the promised sign. “When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies,” said Jesus, “then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out.” [Luke 21:20, 21.] After the Romans under Cestius had surrounded the city, they unexpectedly abandoned the siege when everything seemed favorable for an immediate attack. The besieged, despairing of successful resistance, were on the point of surrender, when the Roman general withdrew his forces, without the least apparent reason. But God's merciful providence was directing events for the good of his own people. The promised sign had been given to the waiting Christians, and now an opportunity was afforded for all who would to obey the Savior's warning. Events were so overruled that neither Jews nor Romans should hinder the flight of the Christians. Upon the retreat of Cestius, the Jews, sallying (rushing forth) from Jerusalem, pursued after his retiring army; and while both forces were thus fully engaged, the Christians had an opportunity to leave the city. At this time, the country also had been cleared of enemies who might have endeavored to intercept them. At the time of the siege, the Jews were assembled at Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, and thus the Christians throughout the land were able to make their escape unmolested. Without delay, they fled to a place of safety—the city of Pella, in the land of Perea, beyond Jordan. GC 30.2 (Great Controversy)

And the Saviour warned his followers: “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoso readeth let him understand), then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains.” [Matthew 24:15, 16.] When the idolatrous standards of the Romans should be set up in the holy ground, which extended some furlongs outside the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight. When the warning sign should be seen, judgment was to follow so quickly that those who would escape must make no delay. He who chanced to be upon the housetop must not go down through his house into the street; but he must speed his way from roof to roof until he reach the city wall, and be saved “so as by fire.” Those who were working in the fields or vineyards must not take time to return for the outer garment laid aside while they should be toiling in the heat of the day. They must not hesitate a moment, lest they be involved in the general destruction. 4SP 26.2 (Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 4)

#### **Q: WHY ARE BOTH THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY AND THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM TYPES OF THE SUNDAY LAW??**

##### **B.) BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY/ FIRST DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM, 586 BC:**

All unexpectedly a new world power, the Babylonian Empire, was rising to the eastward and swiftly overshadowing all other nations. Within a few short years the king of Babylon was to be used as the instrument of God's wrath upon impenitent Judah. Again and again Jerusalem was to be invested and entered by the besieging armies of Nebuchadnezzar. Company after company—at first a few only, but later on thousands and tens of thousands—were to be taken captive to the land of Shinar, there to dwell in enforced exile. PK 422.1, 2 (Prophets and Kings)

It (Jerusalem) was thrice taken by Nebuchadnezzar, in the years BC 607, 597, and 586, in the last of which it was utterly destroyed. Smith's Bible Dictionary, 303

In the closing years of Judah's apostasy, the exhortations of the prophets were seemingly of but little avail; and as the armies of the Chaldeans came for the third and last time to besiege Jerusalem, hope fled from every heart. Jeremiah predicted utter ruin; and it was because of his insistence on surrender, that he had finally been thrown into prison. PK 466.1 (Prophets and Kings)

In calling the attention of Judah to the sins that finally brought upon them the **Babylonian Captivity**, the Lord declared: "Thou hast ... profaned My Sabbaths." "Therefore have I poured out Mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads." (Ezekiel 22:8, 31) PK 182.1 (Prophets and Kings)

God's church on earth was as verily in **captivity** during this **long period of relentless persecution** as were the **children of Israel held captive in Babylon** during the period of the exile. PK 714.1 (Prophets and Kings)

The **faith that strengthened** Habakkuk and all the holy and the just, in times of **deep trial shortly before the Babylonian captivity**, was the same **faith that sustains** God's people today. PK 386.3 (Prophets and Kings)

#### DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM, 70 AD:

Forty years after Christ uttered His prediction respecting **Jerusalem and the temple**, His words were fulfilled to the letter. **Jerusalem was destroyed, and in the siege** it is stated that **more than a million people perished**. The **rejection** of the Son of God decided the destiny of that nation. Let Christians take heed, lest **by rejecting God's holy memorial**, their fate also be decided. ST Dec.19, 1900 par.15 (Signs of the Times)

The **ruin of Jerusalem was a symbol of the final ruin** that shall **overwhelm the world**. The prophecies that received a **partial fulfillment** in the overthrow of Jerusalem, have a more **direct application to the last days**. MB 120.2 (Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing)

Jesus, looking down to the **last generation**, saw the world inclosed in a **deception similar** to that which caused the **destruction of Jerusalem**. The great sin of the Jews was their **rejection of Christ**; the great sin of the Christian world would be their **rejection of the law of God**, the foundation of his government in Heaven and earth. 4SP 22.2 (Spirit of Prophecy, Vol.4)

The Savior's prophecy concerning the visitation of **judgments upon Jerusalem** is to have another fulfillment, of which that terrible desolation was but a **faint shadow**. In the fate of the chosen city, we may behold the **doom of a world** that has rejected God's mercy and **trampled upon His law**. GC 36.2 (Great Controversy)

In these last days, **the history of the Jewish nation is being repeated in the Christian Church**. Notwithstanding the fact that they have before them the **example of the Jewish nation in rejecting light**, they are doing as they did, and doing despite to the Spirit of Grace. Manuscript 105, 1894 par.31

#### Q: CAN WE DISCERN THE HEALTH MESSAGE/HEALTH TEST IN CHRIST'S WARNING OF LUKE 21:34, JUST PRIOR TO THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AND ANTITYPICALLY, THE WORLD??

What is any stage or feature of **\*prodigality** (intemperance) but selfishness? ... In the **twenty-first chapter of Luke**, Christ **foretold what was to come upon Jerusalem**, and with it He connected the scenes which were to take place in the history of this world **just prior to the coming of the Son of man** in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Mark the words: "**Take heed** to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with **\*surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life**, and so that day come upon you **unawares**. For **as a snare** shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **Watch** ye therefore, and **pray always**, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." [(Lk. 21): 34-36.]

This is a warning to those who claim to be Christians. Those who have had **light** upon the important, **testing truths** for this time, and yet are **not making ready** for the coming of the Son of man, are not taking heed. [Verse 34 repeated] There is no period of time when **spiritual slothfulness** is excusable.

Only by **being clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness** can we escape the judgments that are coming upon the earth. Let all remember that **these words were among the last that Christ gave His disciples**. ... It is this instruction that church members and the people of the world need; for it is **present truth**. Letter 20, 1901 par.27, 32-34

**Webster's Dictionary**: **\*prodigality**, (prodigal): recklessly **extravagant (intemperate)**; characterized by **wasteful expenditure**.

**Strong's Concordance:** **surfeiting:** G2897: \*dissipation, surfeiting.

**Webster's Dictionary:** \***dissipation:** **intemperate** living esp. excessive drinking; **F&W Dictionary:** \***dissipation:** **excessive indulgence** esp. in dissolute (unrestrained) pleasures.

\***surfeit:** (Origin: MF (Middle French), "surfaire" meaning, to overdo); an overabundant supply: excess; an **intemperate** or immoderate indulgence in something (as food or drink)

**Q: IF THE PANDEMIC IS NOT A RELIGIOUS ISSUE, AS SOME CHRISTIANS MAY CLAIM, THEN WHY WOULD THEY CLAIM RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FOR NOT TAKING THE SO-CALLED VAX??**

**C.) DANIEL'S SEVERE HEALTH TEST (BASED ON RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLE) [DANIEL 1]:**

**Dan.1:8:** But Daniel **purposed in his heart** that he would **not defile himself** with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

But a portion having been offered to idols, the food from the king's table was consecrated to idolatry; and **one partaking of it would be regarded as offering homage to the gods of Babylon**. In such homage, **loyalty to Jehovah** forbade Daniel and his companions to join. Even a **mere pretense** of eating the food or drinking the wine would be a **denial of their faith**. To do this would be to array themselves with heathenism and to **dishonor the principles of the law of God**. PK 481.2 (Prophets and Kings)

Among the viands (provisions or food) placed before the king, were swine's flesh and other meats which were declared unclean by the law of Moses, and which the Hebrews had been **expressly forbidden** to eat. Here Daniel was brought to a **severe test**. Should he adhere to the teachings of his fathers concerning meats and drinks, and **offend the king**, probably losing not only his position but his life?, or should he **disregard the commandment of the Lord**, and retain the favor of the king, thus securing great intellectual advantages and the most flattering worldly prospects?

Daniel did not long hesitate. He decided to **stand firmly** for his integrity, **let the result be what it might**. He "**purposed in his heart** that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank."

There are many among professed Christians today who would decide that Daniel was **too particular**, and would pronounce him narrow and bigoted. **They consider the matter of eating and drinking of too little consequence to require such a decided stand**,—one involving the probable sacrifice of every earthly advantage. But those who **reason** thus, will find in the day of Judgment that they turned from **God's express requirements**, and **set up their own opinion** as a standard of right and wrong. They will find that what **seemed to them unimportant** was not so regarded of God. **His requirements should be sacredly obeyed**. Those who accept and obey one of his precepts because it is **convenient** to do so, while they **reject another** because its observance would require a **sacrifice**, lower the standard of right, and by their example, lead others to **lightly regard** the holy law of God. "Thus saith the Lord" is to be our rule in all things.

A **strict compliance** with the requirements of God is beneficial to the health of body and mind. In order to reach the highest standard of moral and intellectual attainments, it is necessary to seek wisdom and strength from God, and to **observe strict temperance in all the habits of life**. In the experience of Daniel and his companions, we have an instance of the triumph of **principle** over temptation to indulge the appetite. It shows us that through **religious principle** young men may triumph over the lusts of the flesh, and **remain true to God's requirements**, even though it cost them a great sacrifice. RH Jan. 25, 1881 par. 5-7, 15 (Review and Herald)

**D.) GOLDEN IMAGE/IDOL TEST (DANIEL 3):**

**Dan. 3:8:** Wherefore at that time, **certain Chaldeans** came near, and **accused the Jews**.

**Dan. 3:17, 18:** If it be so, our God whom we serve, is **able to deliver us** from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. 18) But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that **we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image** which thou hast set up.

Then with his hand stretched upward in defiance, he (Nebuchadnezzar) demanded, "Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?" **In vain were the king's threats**. He could **not** turn the men from their **allegiance** to the Ruler of the universe. From the history of their fathers,

they had learned that disobedience to God results in dishonor, disaster, and death; and that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, the foundation of all true prosperity. ... PK 507.2, 3 (Prophets and Kings)

By many, the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is made void, being treated as a thing of naught, while the spurious Sabbath, the child of the papacy, is exalted. In the place of God's laws are elevated the laws of the man of sin—laws that are to be received and regarded as the wonderful golden image of Nebuchadnezzar was by the Babylonians. Manuscript 24, 1891 par. 20

The authorities of this world will rise up in their pride and power to make laws to restrict religious liberty. They will assume a right that is God's alone, and, like Nebuchadnezzar, will think that they can force the conscience, which only God can control. RH Dec. 20, 1893 par. 3 (Review and Herald)

An idol sabbath has been set up, as the golden image was set up in the plains of Dura. And as Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, issued a decree that all who would not bow down and worship this image should be killed, so a proclamation will be made that all who will not reverence the Sunday institution will be punished with imprisonment and death. Thus the Sabbath of the Lord is trampled underfoot. But the Lord has declared, "Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and write grievousness which they have prescribed." [Isaiah 10:1.] Manuscript 7a, 1896 par. 7

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. ST May 6, 1897 par. 14 (Signs of the Times)

#### E.) ESTHER/MORDECAI:

**Esther 3: 8,9,13:** And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all the people; neither keep they the king's laws; therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. **9)** If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed... **13)** And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.

The trying experiences that came to God's people in the days of Esther were not peculiar to that age alone. ... The decree that will finally go forth against the remnant people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews. Today the enemies of the true church, see in the little company keeping the Sabbath commandment, a Mordecai at the gate. The reverence of God's people for His law is a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and are trampling on His Sabbath. Satan will arouse indignation against the minority who refuse to accept popular customs and traditions. ... Today, as in the days of Esther and Mordecai, the Lord will vindicate His truth and His people. PK 605.1-3 (Prophets and Kings)

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. ST Nov.8, 1899 par.9, 10 (Signs of the Times)

**Q: CAN WE AGREE THAT PERSECUTION AND OPPRESSION IN THE PANDEMIC, TYPIFY WHAT WILL TRANSPIRE AT THE SUNDAY LAW??**

**Q: HAVE YOU PERSONALLY ENDURED A MAJOR HARDSHIP OR PERSECUTION DURING THE PANDEMIC??**

28. PERSECUTION/OPPRESSION/RESTRICTIONS:

**John 15:20:** Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. if they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

**2 Tim. 3: 12:** All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

**Dan. 7:25:** And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

**Isa. 10:1:** Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed.

**Psa. 94:20, 21:** Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law? 21) They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood.

Trial and persecution will come to all who, in obedience to the Word of God, refuse to worship this false sabbath. ST May 6, 1897 par.16 (Signs of the Times)

Satanic agencies have been moved from beneath, and they have inspired men to unite in a confederacy of evil, that they may perplex, harass, and cause the people of God great distress. 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 anti-Christian power. RH Aug. 22, 1893 par. 8 (Review and Herald)

Men claiming to be Christians will call upon the world to observe this spurious sabbath that they have made. All who refuse will be put under oppressive laws. Manuscript 110, 1904 par.58

She (Rome) is piling up her lofty and massive structures in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. ... We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is. Whoever shall believe and obey the word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution. GC 581.2 (Great Controversy)

In this time of prevailing iniquity we may know that the last great crisis is at hand. When the defiance of God's law is almost universal, when His people are oppressed and afflicted by their fellow men, the Lord will interpose. COL 178.3 (Christ's Object Lessons)

In the very time in which we live, the Lord has called His people and has given them a message to bear. He has called them to expose the wickedness of the man of sin who has made the Sunday law a distinctive power, who has thought to change times and laws, and to oppress the people of God who stand firmly to honor Him by keeping the only true Sabbath, the Sabbath of creation, as holy unto the Lord. TM 117.5 (Testimonies to Ministers)

The time is soon coming when God's people, because of persecution, will be scattered in many countries. Manuscript 57, 1908 par. 8

Covetousness and selfishness are blinding men, so that they unwittingly make decrees that deprive men of their rights, and pass judgment on matters that cut them off from their privileges. In so doing they are as verily using oppression as are the powers of the world in restricting religious liberty. Though their power is limited, yet they are actuated by the same spirit which rules the children of disobedience. They make decisions that repress individual action, and God frowns upon their decrees, methods, and laws that bind those whom God would have free to use the power He has given them as a precious endowment. Letter 16, 1895 par.17

In a Sunday law, there is possibility for great suffering to those who observe the seventh day. The working out of Satan's plans will bring persecution to the people of God. RH Sep. 30, 1909 par.13 (Review and Herald)

We see that efforts are being made to restrict our religious liberties. The Sunday question is now assuming large proportions. An amendment to our Constitution is being urged in Congress, and when it is obtained, oppression must follow. I want to ask, Are you awake to this matter? and do you realize that the night cometh, when no man can work? Have you had that intensity of zeal, and that piety and devotion, which will enable you to stand when oppression is brought upon you? RH Dec. 18, 1888 par.12 (Review and Herald)

**Q: NOW, DURING THE PANDEMIC, DO GOD'S PEOPLE FACE RESTRICTIONS OR "OBSTRUCTION" OF "PASSAGE" OR TRAVEL??**

We have no time to lose. The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers on the right hand and on the left. Everything will be placed to obstruct the way of the Lord's messengers, so that they will not be able to do that which it is possible for them to do now. We must look our work fairly in the face, and advance as fast as possible in aggressive warfare. 6T 22.3 (Testimonies, Vol.6)

Men will be required to render obedience to human edicts in violation of the divine law. Those who are true to God will be **menaced**, (threatened) **denounced**, (and) **\*proscribed**. PK 588.1 (Prophets and Kings)

**Webster's Dictionary: \*proscribe:** to **publish the name** of a person as **condemned to death** with his property forfeited to the state; **outlaw**; to **condemn or forbid as harmful**, **prohibit**

## 29. PESTILENCES/DEADLY TAINT/MIASMA:

**Mat. 24:7:** For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and **pestilences**, and earthquakes, in divers places.

**Luke 21:11:** And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and **pestilences**, and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

**Psa.91:3, 5, 6:** Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome **pestilence**. 5) **Thou shalt not be afraid** for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day 6) Nor for the **pestilence** that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

**Strong's Concordance, (E-Sword): Pestilence:** H1698: From H1696 (in the sense of destroying); murrain, pestilence, plague; **Strong's (2001 Edition):** plague, pestilence, disease; a **pandemic occurrence of sickness and death**

**Webster's Dictionary: Pestilence:** a **contagious or infectious epidemic** (excessively prevalent) **disease** that is **\*virulent** and **devastating**

**\*virulent:** (Origin, from Latin, "virulentus", from **virus**, meaning **poison**); marked by a rapid, severe, or malignant course; able to overcome bodily **defensive mechanisms**; extremely **poisonous** or venomous

**God commissions His angels** to save His chosen ones from calamity, **to guard them from** "the **pestilence** that walketh in darkness" and "the destruction that wasteth at noonday." Psalm 91:6. AA 153.2 (Acts of the Apostles)

The night of trial, the night of weeping, the night of **persecution for the truth's sake**, is not far distant. It is through **much tribulation** that we shall stand as faithful sentinels for God, not swerving one hair from truth and righteousness. Famines will increase; **pestilences will sweep away thousands**. Letter 31, 1897 par.16

While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he (Satan) 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 589.3 (Great Controversy)

Preceding the great sign of the coming of the Son of man, there will be signs and wonders in the heavens. ... **Already sprinklings** from the vials of God's wrath have been let fall upon land and sea, affecting the **elements of the air**. The causes of these unusual conditions are being searched for, but in vain. God has **not** restrained the powers of darkness from carrying forward their **deadly work** of **\*vitiating the air**, one of the sources of life and nutrition, with a **deadly \*miasma**. Not only is vegetable life affected, but man suffers from **pestilences**. ... These things are the result of **drops** from the vials of God's wrath being **sprinkled** on the earth, and are but faint representations of what will be in the near future. Manuscript 24, 1891 par.4, 6-8

**Webster's Dictionary: \*taint** (noun): a **contaminating mark** or influence **F&W Dictionary: taint** (noun): A trace or **germ of decay**; a cause or result of **corruption**.

**\*Vitiating, (vitiating):** to make **faulty or defective** often by the addition of something that **impairs**; to make **ineffective or weak**

**\*Miasma:** (Origin: from Latin and Greek, meaning **defilement or to pollute**), a pervasive influence or **atmosphere** that tends to **deplete or corrupt**



**Q: SO FAR DURING THIS PANDEMIC, HAVE THE PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANT PEOPLE BEEN PROGRESSIVE??**

**Q: DOES THE PROGRESSIVE NATURE OF RESTRICTIONS AND PENALTIES OF THIS PANDEMIC, PARALLEL THE PROGRESSIVE PENALTIES TO BE ENFORCED AT THE SUNDAY LAW CRISIS??**

30. PROGRESSIVE RESTRICTIONS/ PENALTIES:

**Rev. 13:15-17:** And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. 16) And 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: 17) 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.

In the last conflict the Sabbath will be the special point of controversy throughout all Christendom. Secular rulers and religious leaders will unite to enforce the observance of the Sunday; and as milder measures fail, the most oppressive laws will be enacted. 4SP 444.2 (Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 4)

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. GC 604.2 (Great Controversy)

There is a prospect before us of a continued struggle, at the risk of imprisonment, loss of property, and even of life itself, to defend the law of God, which is made void by the laws of men. 5T 712.3 (Testimonies, Vol. 5)

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. DA 121.3 (Desire of Ages)

The decree will soon go forth prohibiting men to buy or sell of any man, save him that hath the mark of the beast. 5T 152.2 (Testimonies, Vol. 5)

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. GC 608.1 (Great Controversy)

That which is false (Sunday observance) is sanctioned by human laws, and disobedience to those laws is regarded as an offence punishable with the stocks, fines, imprisonment, and death. Letter 100, 1895 par. 29

**Q: IS THE REGAINING OF ROME'S SUPREMACY NOW, A PREFIGURATION OF THE FULL CONTROL OF THE BEAST AND HIS IMAGE IN THE TIME OF THE SUNDAY LAW??**

**Q: HOW HAS THE PAPACY BEEN USING THE PANDEMIC TO FURTHER HER DESIGNS TO PROMOTE SUNDAY??**

31. ROME TO REGAIN SUPREMACY/DEADLY WOUND HEALED:

**Rev.13: 3, 4:** And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed; and all the world wondered after the beast. 4.) And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, who is like unto the beast? ; and who is able to make war with him?

Protestants little know what they are doing when they propose to accept the aid of Rome in the work of Sunday exaltation. While they are bent upon the accomplishment of their purpose, Rome is aiming to re-establish her power, to recover her lost supremacy. Let the principle once be established in the United States that the church may employ or control the power of the state; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws; in short, that the authority of church and state is to dominate the conscience, and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured. ... She is silently growing into power. GC 581.1, 2 (Great Controversy)

The false sabbath, the first day of the week, will be accepted, and the rulers will unite with the man of sin to restore his lost ascendancy.  
Manuscript 39, 1906 par.2

The Roman Church is far-reaching in her plans and modes of operation. She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done. Catholicism is gaining ground upon every side. GC 565.4 (Great Controversy)

In the movements now in progress in the United States to secure for the institutions and usages of the church the support of the State, Protestants are following in the steps of papists. Nay, more, they are opening the door for popery to regain in Protestant America the supremacy which she has lost in the Old World. GC 573.1 (Great Controversy)

At this time the order of the Jesuits was created, the most cruel, unscrupulous, and powerful of all the champions of popery. ... There was no crime too great for them to commit, no deception too base for them to practice, no disguise too difficult for them to assume. Vowed to perpetual poverty and humility, it was their studied aim to secure wealth and power, to be devoted to the overthrow of Protestantism, and the re-establishment of the papal supremacy. GC 234.2 (Great Controversy)

Many will plead that there is no prospect that popery will ever be revived. If it shall regain its lost ascendancy, it will be by Protestantism's giving it the right hand of fellowship. RH Jan. 1, 1889 par. 9 (Review and Herald)

When our nation shall so abjure the principles of its government as to enact a Sunday law, Protestantism will in this act join hands with popery; it will be nothing else than giving life to the tyranny which has long been eagerly watching its opportunity to spring again into active despotism. ST 711.4 (Testimonies, Vol.5)

In the very time in which we live, the Lord has called His people and has given them a message to bear. He has called them to expose the wickedness of the man of sin who has made the Sunday law a distinctive power, who has thought to change times and laws, and to oppress the people of God who stand firmly to honor Him by keeping the only true Sabbath, the Sabbath of creation, as holy unto the Lord. TM 117.5 (Testimonies to Ministers)

**Q: HAS THIS CHARACTERISTIC OF NO BUYING OR SELLING AT THE SUNDAY LAW, ALSO TAKEN PLACE DURING OUR DAYS OF THE PANDEMIC??**

**Q: SHOULD WE BE PREPARING FOR THE TIME OF NO BUYING OR SELLING??**

### 32. SANCTIONS/NO BUYING OR SELLING:

**Rev.13:17:** 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.

**Deut. 8:2, 3:** The Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness. ... And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that He might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.

**Isa. 33:16:** He shall dwell on high: his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.

**Psa. 37:19:** They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine, they shall be satisfied.

**Hab. 3: 17, 18:** Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

**Webster's Dictionary:** **Sanction** (noun): the detriment, loss of reward, or **\*coercive** intervention annexed to a violation of a law, as a means of enforcing a law; an economic or military **coercive** measure

**\*Coercive, (Coerce):** to restrain or dominate by nullifying individual will; to **compel (force)** to an act or choice; **to enforce or bring about by force or threat**

**Boycott:** to engage in a **concerted** (unitedly planned) **refusal** to have dealings with (as a person, business, or organization) to express disapproval or **to force acceptance** of certain conditions.

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 (is) 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. DA 121.2, 3 (Desire of Ages)

We are to be ready and waiting for the orders of God. Nations will be stirred to their very center. Support will be withdrawn from those who proclaim God's only standard of righteousness, the only sure test of character. And all who will not bow to the decree of the national councils, and obey the national laws to exalt the sabbath instituted by the man of sin to the disregard of God's holy day, will feel, not the oppressive power of Popery alone, but of the Protestant world, the image of the beast. Letter 55, 1886, par.17

They (the wicked) had cut off our resources so that we could not buy or sell, and referred to our abject poverty and stricken condition. They could not see how we could live without the world. We were dependent upon the world, and we must concede to the customs, practices, and laws of the world, or go out of it. Letter 6, 1884 par.2

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. Manuscript 51, 1899 par.27

Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future, the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one. We should now begin to heed the instruction given us over and over again: Get out of the cities into rural districts, where the houses are not crowded closely together, and where you will be free from the interference of enemies. Letter 5, 1904 par.3

Covetousness and selfishness are blinding men, so that they unwittingly make decrees that deprive men of their rights, and pass judgment on matters that cut them off from their privileges. In so doing they are as verily using oppression as are the powers of the world in restricting religious liberty. Letter 16, 1895 par. 11

For two years past, the Lord has shown me in vision, repeatedly, that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints have food laid up by them, or in the fields, in the time of trouble when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it will be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and he will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water would be sure at that time, and we should not lack, or suffer hunger. — The Lord has shown me that some of his children would fear when they see the price of food rising, and they would buy food and lay it by for the time of trouble. Then in a time of need, I saw them go to their food and look at it, and it had bred worms, and was full of living creatures, and not fit for use. About one week since, the Lord showed me in vision, that houses and lands would be of no use in the time of trouble, and in that time they could not be disposed of. I saw it was the will of God that the saints should cut loose from every encumbrance—dispose of their houses and lands before the time of trouble comes, and make a covenant with God by sacrifice. I saw they would sell, if they laid their property on the altar and earnestly inquired for duty. Then God will teach them when to dispose of these things. Then they will be free in the time of trouble, and have no clogs to weigh them down. Broadside 2, Jan. 31, 1849 par. 9 (Also EW 56.2,3 [Early Writings])

On page 33 (of Early Writings) is given the following: "I saw that the holy Sabbath is, and will be, the separating wall between the true Israel of God and unbelievers; and that the Sabbath is the great question to unite the hearts of God's dear, waiting saints. I saw that God had children who do not see and keep the Sabbath. They have not rejected the light upon it. And at the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully."

This view was given in 1847 when there were but very few of the Advent brethren observing the Sabbath, and of these, but few supposed that its observance was of sufficient importance to draw a line between the people of God and unbelievers. Now the fulfillment of that view is beginning to be seen. "The commencement of that time of trouble," here mentioned does not refer to the time when the plagues shall begin to be poured out, but to a short period just before they are poured out, while Christ is in the sanctuary. At that time, while the work of salvation is closing, trouble will be coming on the earth, and the nations will be angry, yet held in check so as not to prevent the work of the third angel. At that time, the "latter rain," or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out. EW 85. 2, 3 (Early Writings)

**Q: DOES THE SMALL MINORITY DURING THIS TIME OF THE PANDEMIC, FORESHADOW THE SMALL MINORITY DURING THE SUNDAY LAW??**

**Q: ARE THE REMNANT OR THE 144 THOUSAND CONSIDERED A SMALL MINORITY IN COMPARISON TO THE WORLD'S POPULATION??**

33. SMALL MINORITY WILL NOT YIELD OR COMPLY:

**Isa. 37:32:** For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a **remnant**, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.

**Rev. 7:4:** And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were **sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand** of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

**Rom. 9:27:** Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a **remnant** shall be saved.

**Rev. 12:17:** And 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. 13:15:** And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast; that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that **as many as would not worship the image of the beast** should be killed.

**Rev. 14:12:** Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

**Luke 21: 19:** In your patience, possess ye your souls.

As the Sabbath has become the special point of controversy throughout Christendom, and religious and secular authorities have combined to enforce the observance of the Sunday, the **persistent refusal of a small minority to yield to the popular demand** will make them objects of universal execration (cursing and hatred). GC 615.2 (Great Controversy)

The whole world was converted and in harmony with the Sunday law, and this **little feeble people stood out in defiance of the laws of the land** and the law of God, and claimed to be the only ones right on the earth. Letter 6, 1884 par.3

The whole world keeps Sunday, they say, and why should not this people, who are so few in number, do according to the laws of the land? Manuscript 163, 1897 par. 24

Soon the Sunday laws will be enforced, and men in positions of trust will be embittered against the **little handful of God's commandment-keeping people**. Letter 143, 1909 par.7

They (the wicked) ridiculed our feebleness. They mocked at the **smallness of our numbers**, and taunted us with words calculated to cut deep. They charged us with taking an independent position from all the rest of the world. Letter 6, 1884 par.2

**Q: ARE VACCINES BEING URGED BY GOD'S PROFESSED MINISTERS??**

**Q: WHY WILL SUNDAY-KEEPING BE URGED BY GOD'S PROFESSED MINISTERS??**

**Q: CAN WE SEE THAT THIS SIMILARITY MAKES THE PANDEMIC A TYPE OF SUNDAY LAW??**

34. SUNDAY-KEEPING URGED BY GOD'S PROFESSED MINISTERS:

**Isa. 56:10, 11:** His **watchmen are blind**; they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. 11) Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

**Mat. 7:22, 23:** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, **have we not prophesied in thy name?** And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? 23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, **ye that work iniquity**.

**1 Thes. 5:3, 4:** 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. 4) But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

**Eze. 22:8:** Thou hast **despised mine holy things, and hast profaned My Sabbaths**.

In calling the attention of Judah to the **sins that finally brought upon them the Babylonian captivity**, the Lord declared: **"Thou hast ... profaned My Sabbaths."** "Therefore have I poured out Mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads." (Eze. 22:8, 31) At the restoration of Jerusalem, in the days of Nehemiah, Sabbath-breaking was met

with the stern inquiry, "Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? Yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the Sabbath." (Neh. 13:18) PK 182.1, 2 (Prophets and Kings)

The Lord has a controversy with His professed people in these last days. In this controversy men in responsible positions will take a course directly opposite to that pursued by Nehemiah. They will not only ignore and despise the Sabbath themselves, but they will try to keep it from others by burying it beneath the rubbish of custom and tradition. In churches and in large gatherings in the open air, ministers will urge upon the people the necessity of keeping the first day of the week. There are calamities on sea and land: and these calamities will increase, one disaster following close upon another; and the little band of conscientious Sabbath-keepers will be pointed out as the ones who are bringing the wrath of God upon the world by their disregard of Sunday. ...

The church of today has followed in the steps of the Jews of old, who set aside the commandments of God for their own traditions. She has changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant, and now, as then, pride, unbelief, and infidelity are the result. RH Mar. 18, 1884 par. 8, 11 (Review and Herald)

Internal corruption will bring the denunciations of God upon this people, as it did upon Jerusalem. 2SM 378.3 (Selected Messages, Vol. 2)

The Lord's messengers should not complain that their efforts are without fruit until they repent of their own love of approbation and their desire to please men, which leads them to suppress truth. Those ministers who are men pleasers, who cry, Peace, peace, when God has not spoken peace, might well humble their hearts before God, asking pardon for their insincerity and their lack of moral courage. It is not from love for their neighbor that they smooth down the message entrusted to them, but because they are self-indulgent and ease-loving. True love seeks first the honor of God and the salvation of souls. Those who have this love will not evade the truth to save themselves from the unpleasant results of plain speaking. When souls are in peril, God's ministers will not consider self, but will speak the word given them to speak, refusing to excuse or palliate evil. PK 141.1, 2 (Prophets and Kings)

Q: IS THERE A SIMILARITY OR PARALLEL BETWEEN A TEST OF LOYALTY AND OBEDIENCE DURING THE PANDEMIC AND DURING THE SUNDAY LAW??

Q: WHAT KINDS OF TESTS OF LOYALTY AND OBEDIENCE HAVE EACH ONE OF US BEEN GOING THROUGH RECENTLY??

35. TEST OF LOYALTY AND OBEDIENCE:

John 14:15: If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Acts 5:29: Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Joshua 24:15: ... Choose you this day whom ye will serve.

Psalms 118:8: It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man.

Jer. 17:5, 7: Thus saith the Lord, Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.  
7) Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.

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. GC 605.2 (Great Controversy)

The warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be tested. Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world. All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. DA 763.3 (Desire of Ages)

Christ gives the test by which to prove our loyalty or disloyalty. "If ye love Me," He says, "keep My commandments." ... (John 14:15) COL 283.3 (Christ's Object Lessons)

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. GC 605.2 (Great Controversy)

And all who prove their loyalty by obedience to the law of Jehovah must be prepared to be arrested, to be brought before councils that have not for their standard the high and holy law of God. RH Dec. 26, 1899, Art. A, par.14 (Review and Herald)

The adherents of truth are now called upon to choose between disregarding a plain requirement of God's word, or forfeiting their liberty. If we yield the word of God, and accept human customs and traditions, we may still be permitted to live among men, to buy and sell, and have our rights respected. But if we maintain our loyalty to God, it must be at the sacrifice of our rights among men.

The Word of God must be recognized and obeyed as an authority above that of all human legislation. "Thus saith the Lord," is not to be set aside for a Thus saith the Church or the State. HM Nov. 1, 1893 par.18, 19 (Home Missionary, EGW)

An apostate church will unite with the powers of earth and hell to place upon the forehead or in the hand, the mark of the beast, and prevail upon the children of God to worship the beast and his image. They will seek to compel them to renounce their allegiance to God's law, and yield homage to the papacy. Then will come the times which will try men's souls; for the confederacy of apostasy will demand that the loyal subjects of God shall renounce the law of Jehovah, and repudiate the truth of His word. Then will the gold be separated from the dross, and it will be made apparent who are the godly, who are loyal and true, and who are the disloyal, the dross and the tinsel. What clouds of chaff will then be borne away by the fan of God! Where now our eyes can discover only rich floors of wheat, will be chaff blown away with the fan of God. Everyone who is not centered in Christ will fail to stand the test and ordeal of that day. RH Nov. 8, 1892 par.7 (Review and Herald)

When the law of God is made void, the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger proportion than we now anticipate will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. 2SM 368.1 (Selected Message, Vol. 2), (Manuscript 48, 1891 par.16)

He (Satan) is sweeping the whole world into his ranks, and the few who are faithful to God's requirements are the only ones who can ever withstand him, and even these he is trying to overcome. RH Dec. 24, 1889 par.11 (Review and Herald)

**Q: NOW, IN OUR TIME OF THE PANDEMIC, CAN WE SEE TWO CLASSES OF PEOPLE BEING DEVELOPED IN THE WORLD AND IN THE CHURCH??**

**Q: ARE THESE TWO CLASSES BEING DEVELOPED NOW, A TYPIFICATION OF THE TWO CLASSES DURING THE SUNDAY LAW TIME??**

36. TWO CLASSES ONLY:

**Mat. 12:30:** He that is not with me, is against me; and he that gathereth not with me, scattereth abroad.

**Mat. 13:30:** Let both (wheat and tares) grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest, I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

**Rev. 22:11:** 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.

In the summer and autumn of 1844 the proclamation, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh," was given. The two classes represented by the wise and foolish virgins were then developed—one class who looked with joy to the Lord's appearing, and who had been diligently preparing to meet Him; another class that, influenced by fear and acting from impulse, had been satisfied with a theory of the truth, but were destitute of the grace of God. GC 426.2 (Great Controversy)

All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. Here the dividing line will be drawn. There will be but two classes. Every character will be fully developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion. DA 763.3 (Desire of Ages)

There are only two classes in the world today, and only two classes will be recognized in the judgment—those who violate God's law and those who obey it. COL 283.3 (Christ's Object Lessons)

In the time of the end, the world will be divided into two classes—those who follow Christ fully and those who are on the side of Satan.  
Manuscript 60, 1902 par.39

In the world there are but two parties. One acknowledges as its head the prince of darkness, who caused the fall of our first parents. The other stands under the bloodstained banner of Prince Emmanuel. The great movements of providence will bring out a people who are a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. Let us be sure under which banner we are standing, the banner of Satan or the banner of Christ. There is no middle ground. All in the world are standing on one side or the other. Letter 44, 1903 par.29

**Q: ARE THE MAJORITY IN BOTH THE PANDEMIC AND THE SUNDAY LAW ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ISSUE??**

**Q: WHY IS IT, THAT THE NARROW WAY IS ONLY FOUND BY THE FEW??**

37. WICKED (MAJORITY) DECLARED THEY HAD THE TRUTH:

**Prov. 14:12**, (also **Prov. 16:25**): There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

**Mat. 7:13, 14**: Enter ye in at the \*strait gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at. 14) Because \*strait is the gate, and \*narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

**Strong's Concordance**: \*strait: G4728: narrow. \*narrow: G2346: to press upon, crowd up to, cause trouble, to be narrow, to be pressed, troubled, persecuted; afflicted, suffer tribulation

**1 John 5: 19**: And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

**Ps. 12:8**: The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted.

**Mat. 16:24**: Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.

They (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 they had been expecting so long. Letter 6, 1884 par.3

He (Satan, personating Christ) declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. Like the Samaritans who were deceived by Simon Magus, the multitudes, from the least to the greatest, give heed to these sorceries, saying: This is "the great power of God." (Acts 8:10) GC 624.2 (Great Controversy)

The majority are usually to be found on the side of error and falsehood. The fact that doctors of divinity have the world on their side does not prove them to be on the side of truth and of God. The wide gate and the broad road attract the multitudes, while the strait gate and the narrow way are sought only by the few. 4SP 214.1 (Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 4)

But the people of God are not to hide their banner. They are not to ignore the commandments of God, and in order to have an easy time, go with the multitude to do evil. Manuscript 9, 1900 par.8

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 anti-Christian power. RH Aug. 22, 1893 par. 8 (Review and Herald)

By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they (God's professed people) 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. GC 608.2 (Great Controversy)

It is the love of self, the desire for an easier way than God has appointed, that leads to the substitution of human theories and traditions for the divine precepts. DA 409.2 (Desire of Ages)

There are some who seem to be always seeking for the heavenly pearl. But they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong habits. They do not die to self that Christ may live in them. Therefore they do not find the precious pearl. They have not overcome unholy ambition and their love for worldly attractions. They do not take up the cross and follow Christ in the path of self-denial and sacrifice. Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they seem near the kingdom of heaven, but they cannot enter there. Almost but not wholly saved, means to be not almost but wholly lost. COL 118.1 (Christ's Object Lessons)

#### **IN CONCLUSION:**

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 worldly thoughts and cares from the mind. 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 soon will be over. Now is the time to make our calling and election sure, while the four angels are holding the four winds. EW 58.2 (Early Writings)

Everything in the world is in agitation. The signs of the times are \*ominous. Coming events cast their shadows before. The Spirit of God is withdrawing from the earth, and calamity follows calamity by sea and by land. ... There are those who are waiting and watching and working for our Lord's appearing. DA 636.1 (Desire of Ages) \*Ominous: foreshadowed (typified or prefigured) by an omen or prophetic sign

Amidst the deepening shadows of earth's last great crisis, God's light will shine brightest, and the song of hope and trust will be heard in clearest and loftiest strains. (:)

"In that day, shall this song be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; Salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. 2) Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. 3) Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee. 4) Trust ye in the Lord forever, for in the Lord Jehovah, is \*Everlasting Strength." (\*margin, the Rock of Ages) Isa. 26: 1-4 ... Ed 166.7, 167.1 (Education)

Isaiah describes Him (Christ) as the "Rock of Ages," and "the shadow of a great rock in a weary land." Isa. 26:4 (margin); (and Isa.) 32:2 PP 413.2 (Patriarchs and Prophets)

Jer. 31:12: Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together unto the goodness of the Lord, ... and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.

The faith that strengthened Habakkuk and all the holy and the just in times of deep trial shortly before the Babylonian captivity, was the same faith that sustains God's people today. In the darkest hours, under circumstances the most forbidding, the Christian may stay his soul in harmony with the source of all light and power. Day by day, through faith in God, his hope and courage may be renewed. "The just shall live by his faith," Habakkuk 2:4. In the service of God there need be no despondency, no wavering, no fear. The Lord will more than fulfill the highest expectations of those who put their trust in him. He will give them the wisdom their varied necessities demand.

We must cherish and cultivate the faith of which prophets and apostles have testified—the faith that lays hold on the promises of God and waits for deliverance in His appointed time and way. The sure word of prophecy will meet its final fulfillment in the glorious advent of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as King of kings and Lord of lords. The time of waiting may seem long, the soul may be oppressed by discouraging circumstances, many in whom confidence has been placed may fall by the way; but with the prophet who endeavored to encourage Judah in a time of unparalleled apostasy, let us confidently declare, "The Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him." Habakkuk 2:20. Let us ever hold in remembrance the cheering message, "The vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.... The just shall live by his faith." Verses 3, 4. PK 386.3, 387.2 (Prophets and Kings)

**AMEN.**